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The seventh attack targets the capital of "money and business"

Al-Qaeda and an unknown Islamic group claim responsibility for Sayoun suicide bombing

By: Aqeel Al-Hilali
For the Yemen Times

SAYOUN, July 25—Both a previously-unknown Islamic group and Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that targeted a security camp in Hadramout governorate's Sayoun city last Friday. The government accused Al-Qaeda of carrying out the attack, which resulted in the death of the suicide bomber and one security soldier leaving 18 others injured, three of whom are in critical condition.

Among the injured are 11 security soldiers and seven women who lived near the camp who were taken to Sayoun city hospital. The blast also caused damage to some parts of the security camp and other nearby houses, according to a security source.

The organization calling itself the Yemeni branch of Islamic Jihad declared responsibility for the Hadramout attack in a press release published on the internet. "We congratulate the attacker on [attaining] paradise," said the statement, which said the operation comes within the context of

"defending Islam against rallies and celebrations that pollute the minds of our sons and daughters through singing, impudence and mixing of the two sexes."

Al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadramout, holds an annual tourist celebration that began this year on July 17. The event includes artistic, cultural and sporting activities as well as folk dance and traditional, popular meals.

The Yemeni branch of Islamic Jihad said in their press release that the attack targets "all those who think of touching the Islamic religion," and warned that the attacks "will extend to every rotten part in Yemen," before demanding the Al-Qaeda cells and its ideology, he said.

Concerning the group's demand that the Yemeni government pay them in order to stop suicide bombings, Shay'e maintained that Al-Qaeda doesn't use this tactic and demands ransom only when it kidnaps important figures at the national or international level.

Abdullah Ba Wazeer, head of the Hadramout local council's Service

told the Yemen Times that this branch of the Islamic Jihad organization is an armed group that follows the ideology of Al-Qaeda. "This is based on the idea that those who are pro-America are against Islam and consequently they are legitimate targets to attack," said Shay'e.

Shay'e said that suicide bombings aren't restricted to Al-Qaeda, as Hamas and Hezbollah as well as other movements use them as well.

Shay'e added that the camp was targeted because it contained a residence for an anti-terrorism security unit that is responsible for tracking down and watching former fighter involved in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. "Hadramout governorate is home to Al-Qaeda cells and its ideology," he said.

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Abdullah Ba Wazeer, head of the Hadramout local council's Service



The aftermath of the Sayoun suicide bombing captured by Yemen Television channel.



Committee, told the Yemen Times that some groups target the governorate because it is "the capital of money and business."

"Regional and international hands stand behind these terrorist attacks that aim to hinder investment and development in Hadramout, which is consid-

ered the bridge to the development of all the other governorates," said Ba Wazeer.

Last March Hadramout organized a real estate investment conference attended by companies from 14 different Arab and European countries.

Concerning the bombings that targeted security constructions in Hadramout recently, Ba Wazeer claimed that there must be further means provided to prevent repetition of such attacks. "A security sector [should] be established in the governorate to detect and collect data about security issues," said Ba Wazeer. "Additionally, the process of establishing local police force should be hastened and supported."

Hadramout is the largest Yemeni governorate consisting of 30 districts including the islands of Socotra. Al-

Qaeda has taken credit for six attacks in the governorate since December 2007, when two attacks were carried out against security checkpoints in Wadi Ser, injuring six security soldiers. In January, an armed group attacked 15 tourists from Belgium in the Daw'an district, which resulted in the death of two tourists and a Yemeni driver.

Two days after Daw'an attack, two soldiers were killed and five others injured in a traffic accident, according to official sources, while they were carrying out a campaign to capture the tourists' attackers. Additionally, in Daw'an, a soldier was killed and seven were injured in separate attacks by armed men who targeted two security checkpoints. Local authorities accused drug smugglers of launching the two attacks.

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Bani Dhabian sheikh threatens to kill the hostage and warns MP Sultan Al-Barakani

By: Almgid Mojalli

SANA'A, July 27- Bani Dhabian Tribe, who kidnapped Tawfiq Al-Khameri's son one week ago, is now threatening to kill the son and kidnap many more unless Nabil Al-Khameri surrenders.

"If Nabil Al-Khameri doesn't surrender himself to justice, we will kill his nephew and kidnap many other people from his family until he responds," said Ali Mabkhout, one of the sheikhs of the Bani Dhabian tribe.

According to Mabkhout, the story started in 1998 when Nabil Al-Khameri wanted to buy mercury illegally from someone in his village and gave them a check for US \$490,000. When the seller went to the bank to get the money, Tawfiq Al-Khameri, Nabil's brother, had notified police. The police were waiting at the bank and arrested the seller.

The seller spent six months in prison and was eventually obliged to give up his claim to the money. After released from prison, the seller returned to Bani

Dhabian and enlisted the tribe to help get the money back from Al-Khameri. Once Al-Khameri realized the Bani Dhabian tribe was involved in the issue, he offered half of the sum and then later on offered two thirds of the sum, but the tribe refused and clashes broke out between the two parties. The result was that a tribesman named Mohammed Abdullah Najran was killed and four others were injured by Nabil Al-Khameri.

According to Mabkhout, Al-Khameri's son was kidnapped with his two of his companions while in his car one week ago. "But when they got out of Sana'a, the companions and the car were released while the son was taken to Bani Dhabian tribe," said Mabkhout.

Mabkhout accused the MP Sultan Al-Barakani of trying to keep Al-Khameri from justice and to change the dispute into a revenge killing issue. "Al-Barakani has to respect the power he has and not change the issue into revenge killing, because if it changes into revenge killing, he will be the first

victim," said Mabkhout, issuing Al-Barakani a type of death threat should he instigate the government to work against Bani Dhabian tribe.

Mabkhout added that the government chases and arrests anybody belong to Bani Dhabian tribe, even if he doesn't have any relation to the issue.

Tawfiq Al-Khameri, the father of the kidnapped son, refused to comment on the issue. Yemen Times tried to contact Sultan Al-Barakani regarding the issue but was unable to reach him at press time.

Bani Dhabian tribe kidnapped and held two teenagers and five engineers for more than seven months over a financial dispute and asked for YR 70,000,000 (US \$350,000) in 2007 and the first half of 2008. At that time, the then-Ministry of Interior Rashad Al-Alimi, declared his ministry's inability to release the hostages by force, as it is difficult for the government to fight Bani Dhabian tribe. The Bani Dhabian tribal area is about 40 kilometers to the east of Sana'a.

Sa'ada security situation relatively calm despite violations

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 27 — The security situation in Sa'ada is relatively calm, with the exception of minor violations several individuals committed against a truce the Yemeni government and Houthis recently signed, reliable sources from the restive governorate said Sunday.

The sources continued that Houthi gunmen still are entrenched in their strategic mountaintop positions, while at the same time moving with full alert for fear of surprise attacks by Yemeni army personnel.

Houthis also complain that the army has not withdrawn from their farmlands and villages, according to the ceasefire agreement signed by their field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and President Ali Abdullah Saleh, adding that the government coercively pulled its troops deployed in Mirran district due to the district's harsh topography.

Members of the Hashid and Bakil tribes are gathering in Amran governorate in the name of the newly established "Popular Army" and preparing for a new war against Houthis, despite Saleh's recent declaration that military operations in Sa'ada "are over."

Other tribal sources note that both conflicting sides are preparing for a new war, adding that the announcement to end the Sa'ada war was merely a temporary truce intended to help the army reshuffle its units and convince Houthis to make concessions in favor of the government.

Many political observers cast doubt on the credibility of intentions to end the war, particularly since the decision to end the fighting was opposed by senior military commanders and Salafi members, who are working according to a foreign agenda.

Injured army members protest

Members of the 17th Military Division who were injured in the war protested

on Saturday in front of the Military Hospital in Hodeidah, holding and iron rods and causing traffic jams. They were protesting military leaders' alleged indifference toward them following the end of the Sa'ada war and the suspension of their financial entitlements.

The protesters were among those troops besieged by Houthi gunmen in Mirran for nearly 50 days during the most recent confrontations between the army and Houthis. They incurred various injuries in the fighting.

They complain that their commanders promised them financial compensation for their war injuries, adding that they've been pursuing compensation-related measures for a week, but have received nothing thus far.

The ailing soldiers went on to note that they had traveled to Sa'ada to obtain the compensation, but their commanders forced them to return to Hodeidah. They vow to escalate their protests unless they obtain their full compensation, as their commanders promised.

Regarding the human situation in the war-ravaged governorate, Sa'ada Governor Hassan Mana'a confirmed to official media outlets that around 70 percent of displaced residents have returned home within the past few days.

According to him, enhancing security and stability in war-affected areas is one of the main reasons for providing citizens various development and service projects, and reconstructing those homes and villages damaged in the fighting.

A recently formed government-wide committee, chaired by Local Administration Minister Abdulqader Ali Hilal, has begun assessing the war's damage in several Sa'ada areas.

During a Saturday meeting in Sa'ada's provincial capital, Hilal emphasized the necessity of ending the war. "The decision to end the war is a

courageous one reflecting the political leadership's concern to cease bloodshed and restore security and stability to the governorate."

Hilal confirmed that the process of reconstruction and development is a national issue equally as important as enhancing security and stability. "The state and its political leadership care much about fostering development and reconstructing those areas damaged by the war," he stated.

Well-informed sources note that the Yemeni government still has not released those individuals detained for alleged links with Houthis, although this is one of the ceasefire agreement's terms.

Family of detained cleric appeals to president

The wife and children of cleric Mohammed Miftah, who has been detained in a political security jail for his alleged connections with Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, have appealed to President Saleh to release their family's breadwinner. Before he was jailed, Miftah headed Al-Haq Party's Shoura Council.

"I contacted the Political Security Organization more than once to release my husband, but I was told to go to President Saleh," Miftah's wife says in a letter published by a human rights group desiring to remain anonymous.

Armed police affiliated with the Interior Ministry abducted Miftah on May 21 near the Sana'a-based Military College. His abductors fired into Miftah's car and dragged him from it, leaving his family members at the scene.

Government authorities have not yet charged the Zaidi cleric, nor have they indicated why he was detained. In 2006, the State Security Court sentenced Miftah to 14 years in prison for alleged links to Houthis before the sentence was annulled by a presidential decree.

Japanese culture week is returning to Sana'a

By: Alia Ishaq

SANA'A, July 23 — The Japanese Embassy recently hosted a conference in Sana'a at Al-Waleema restaurant to promote its upcoming Japanese culture week in the capital, scheduled to begin on Saturday, Aug. 2.

The weeklong festivities' main event will be a concert featuring traditional music by the Okinawa Band. Okinawa is an island prefecture in Japan, which the week will focus on in part of its activities. The concert will be Monday, Aug. 4, along with other events at the Japanese Cultural Center on Al-Qasr Street.

The week also will include various Japanese games, custom weaving, martial arts performances, a Japanese tea ceremony and a traditional Okinawa-style dance performed by Yemeni students who are learning that country's language at the Japanese Friendship Association.

In addition to the dance, Yemeni students studying Japanese will organize all of the week's other activities. "In addition to the various activities are many simple and traditional games that children will love and which also can help develop their mental skills," notes Shahba Al-Kibsi, a student at the association and a participant in the cultural events, adding, "My favorite is Sudoku."

Al-Kibsi says the reason she's



Two Yemeni girls wear traditional Japanese dresses at the Japanese Friendship Association.

participating in the week is simply her interest in Japanese culture, explaining, "I want to help show Yemenis the culture that I love." The event's activities will conclude on Thursday, Aug. 7.

This year's Japanese culture week is the second in Yemen, as another was organized last November. According to Yosuke Miyamoto, second secretary at the Japanese Embassy, some 3,000

Yemenis participated in the 2007 Japanese culture week.

"This year's culture week is organized to attract more Yemenis. We hope it will be a way for them to get to know more about Japanese culture," Miyamoto added, highlighting that this year's events coincide with the Sana'a Summer Festival, which he believes will help attract more visitors to the Japanese Cultural Center.

Integrating population issues within the Social Affairs Ministry

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, July 27 — Yemen's social affairs minister has announced that the ministry will incorporate the concept of "population affairs" into its plans and programs for 2009.

"Social affairs greatly affect population issues, considering the fact that the family represents society in general because it is a cornerstone in building a healthy society; thus, any trouble affecting the family could reflect negatively on all segments of society," Social Affairs and Labor Minister Amatalrazak Ali Hummad said, further stressing the significance of integrating social problems regarding women into population issues.

The Yemeni government handles population issues through its two main bodies: the Health and Population Ministry and the National Population Council.

Hummud explained, "Our ministry will work to integrate population issues into its plans in a scientific, systematic and planned manner in order to create a starting point to develop scheduling and reorder priorities, resume meetings with the various concerned parties and share views with the other development partners in an effort to arrive at a more explicit vision that may achieve the desired integration."

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, represented by the Directorate General for Women and Children — a

project involving integrating women into development — is a key partner in implementing the 2007-2011 operating plan for the United Nations Population Fund's country program.

"Integrated within the ministry's annual program will be activities involving three components: gender issues, population development and reproductive health," said Rashida Ali Al-Nusairi, coordinator of the Social Affairs Ministry's population policy programs, adding that the ministry now is working to implement activities and work on each component in coordination with the appropriate authorities in order to have a technical unit with which to coordinate.

"For example," she explained, "regarding the population component, our operating programs are formulated and implemented in coordination with the National Population Council and have the technical support unit for that purpose."

Al-Nusairi further explained the importance of inserting this concept into the Social Affairs Ministry's plan, saying, "One component of UNFPA's country program is to build human capital and improve social protection networks' performance in such a way as to assist us in achieving the Millennium Development Goals via the program's main components, as the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is a key partner in executing this program."

In this regard, the Social Affairs Ministry will coordinate with the Health Ministry to increase both men's and women's awareness of the causes and risks of constant pregnancies and childbirths, in addition to increasing women's participation in decision-making regarding searching out the best health services.

More than 30,000 boxes of supplies to ensure clean births at home recently were produced and distributed to the needy in rural areas.

Additionally, the establishment of three production plants is underway in several governorates, resulting from the cooperation between the Social Affairs Ministry and the Health Ministry. All legal measures have been finalized and the Social Affairs Ministry's name has been attached to the productions.

Al-Nusairi noted that there are both domestic- and foreign-budgeted support projects to integrate women into development and implement the aforementioned three components.

"However, the budget should be increased due to the pressing need for activities such as women's increased participation in economic development through producing and marketing the necessary requirements for safe home births, thereby ensuring safe births for those unable to reach hospitals or health centers, particularly in those areas not supplied with health services," she concluded.

Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate may boycott Specialized Criminal Court

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, JULY 26—The Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate threatened on Thursday to boycott arguing before the Specialized Criminal Court as an objection to the court's treatment of lawyers.

The syndicate sent a statement to directors of both the Judiciary Council and the Supreme Court, in which they detailed their complaint against the Specialized Criminal Court. In their message, they referred to "the abusive actions" they have been subjected to while "practicing humanitarian and lawful duties defending suspects before the court."

The letter clarified the abusive actions, such as prohibiting lawyers from talking and asking their clients to leave the court, in addition to preventing media from attending court sessions. The syndicate described these actions as "a violation of their rights to defend the suspects and also an

infringement on the syndicate's duties," according to the statement. "It's also considered a prejudice to justice and a crime according to valid laws."

In a press conference at Yemen Observatory for Human Rights (YOHR) on Thursday, attorney Bassim Al-Sharjabi, a member of the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate, confirmed that the Specialized Criminal Court is controlled by security authorities, not by the Attorney General, the Ministry of Justice or the head of the Judiciary Council.

"We apologize to the detainees and their families because we can't continue," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Mekhlafi, the director of the YOHR. "Going to this court has become a risk for us; the judge is a foe to the detainees, so only with a real court and a normal judge can we defend the detainees," he added.

The syndicate also stated in its message that procedures practiced by the Specialized Criminal Court lack even

the basic conditions for a fair trial, a right enshrined by the Yemeni constitution and confirmed by international agreements Yemen had signed and committed to carry out.

According to Al-Sharjabi, the Specialized Criminal Court was established for the sake of the state to clamp down on political issues in order to silence citizens and take away their freedom. "The judge refused to hand us the case file and when one of us tried to talk to the judge, he said, 'Shut up, otherwise I will force you out,'" said Al-Sharjabi.

The Lawyers Syndicate asked the head of Judiciary Council to stop the court's behaviors. "Otherwise, the syndicate will inform all its members to stop dealing with the Specialized Criminal Court," Al-Sharjabi added.

"The Lawyers Syndicate has taken this step in order to save rights and freedoms, and journalists should cooperate with us because it is a duty," added Al-Mekhlafi.

Yemeni man's war crimes trial is the first to be heard at Gitmo

By: Yemen Times Staff

Last week, Yemeni national Salim Ahmed Hamdan, who is known to be Osama Bin Laden's former chauffeur, became the first person to be tried by the United States for war crimes since World War II.

Hamdan, one of Bin Laden's drivers, is being charged with conspiracy and providing material support for terrorism. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

Prosecutors said that Hamdan was with Bin Laden in Afghanistan when the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. were carried out and that he was found with two surface-to-air missiles in his car when he was captured by the invading U.S. forces in Afghanistan in 2001. Hamdan's defense team claims that he was not privy to any specific terror-related information and was only a lower-tier legman for Al-Qaeda's

leader.

"Without people like Mr. Hamdan, Bin Laden would enjoy no support, he would not enjoy protection and he probably would not have been able to elude capture up to this point," said George M. Crouch Jr., a Special Agent of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), while testifying for the prosecution last week.

The trial has been widely reported in the international press, which has often criticized the U.S. administration for holding military tribunals outside of U.S. territory amid persistent charges of torture and mistreatment at the Guantanamo Bay naval prison.

Hamdan, too, complained of sleep deprivation and sexual misconduct directed towards him during his stay at Guantanamo. However, agents from the FBI testified that Hamdan was cooperative and did not complain of mistreatment during his hours of inter-

rogation. While in U.S. custody, Hamdan was interrogated by 40 different people.

Though the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the legality of the military tribunals in 2006 and again earlier this year, Hamdan's trial has gone on as scheduled and will enter its fifth day of testimony when it resumes today. The prosecution is expected to take five to nine more days to present its case while the defense team is preparing for around five to seven days of testimony on their side.

Hamdan was kept in solitary confinement for much of his time at Guantanamo, where he has been detained since early 2002. Because of the many hours he spends alone, Hamdan's lawyers claim he has been hearing voices and has become mentally unstable; they also doubt that he will be able to participate in his own defense.

In brief

IBB
Over 56,000 tourists visit Ibb during first half of 2008
Over than 56,000 tourists visited the province of Ibb during the first half of 2008.

General director of the tourism sector in the province Ameen Juzailan said the province has witnessed increasing tourist activities since the beginning of the year.

Juzailan said several tourist projects are under construction in the province at a cost of YR 8.5 billion including a resort by the Bin Laden Group at a cost of \$ 30 million and that includes a four stars hotel, parks and entertainment facilities, chalets and meeting halls. Ibb is one of the most attraction in Yemen. It is so called the Green province since it is featured with year-around green lands and mountains.

Rockslide destroys 4 houses in Ibb

A rockslide has resulted in the destruction of 4 houses in al-Sha'ir district of Ibb governorate causing several injuries to a woman. Director general of the district Saleh al-Sufi told Saba on Friday that local authority worked on evacuating inhabitants of the village, noting that the rockslide was caused by torrential rains. He added that the local council asked for relief for the victims of the incident and sending of a committee to assist losses.

TAIZ**HRITC and IDEA to evaluate democracy in Yemen**

The Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in collaboration with the Sweden-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance IDEA is to implement a program to evaluate democracy in Yemen.

The state-run 26sep website quoted director general of the HRITC Abdul Qawi Salim al-Ariqi as saying the program will involve four districts in four governorates which are the districts of Sheikh Othman in Aden, Maeen in Sana'a, Mukala in Hadramout and Qahira in Taiz.

Al-Ariqi added that the program will evaluate democracy in Yemen with field teams that will be assigned to evaluate democracy in the country in the mentioned districts.

Hence, the teams will conduct a comprehensive national report on democracy in Yemen that should explain democracy defects and weaknesses to take necessary measures to deal with such problems.

SANA'A**ESCWA delegation arrives in Sana'a to discuss railway project**

Delegation of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asian (ESCWA) arrived in Sana'a headed by acting director of

Economic Development Administration and Globalization Nabeel Safwat in a several days visit during which he would meet officials of Transportation Ministry.

Safwat said to Saba that during the visit he would discuss the feasibility study of setting up a railway project in Yemen, noting that the railway will link Yemen with neighboring countries whether Saudi Arabia or Oman on the one side or Djibouti and Africa on the other side.

Yemen oil revenues rise by 113 %

The Yemeni revenues of oil exports increased during the first half of 2008 to US \$ 2.660 billion compared with US \$ 1.246 billion in the same period in 2007.

An official report published by the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) attributed this increase to the rise of produced oil in this period to 23.75 million barrels compared to 20 million barrels in the same period of 2007 in addition to the oil barrel's price rise to \$ 112 while it was \$ 62. Worth mentioning, the Yemeni oil production currently ranges between 300,000-350,000 barrels per day. Yemen has 87 oil blocks; 26 exploratory blocks by 16 oil companies, 7 blocks are under the validation, 28 open blocks, 14 blocks are under the promotion and 12 productive blocks operating by 11 oil companies.

SNACC to receive 300 financial disclosures from legal officials

The Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC) is going to receive 300 financial disclosures from court heads, heads and deputies of prosecutions soon. Well-informed sources at SNACC told the weekly 26 September that the authority would also refer to the General Funds Court two corruption cases, one of which is the case of Taiz - al-Turba road.

The SNACC will follow up the legal producers until issuing verdicts, according to the sources.

Agreement to study restructure of Yemen fishing sector signed

The Ministry of Fisheries Wealth signed on Saturday an agreement with New Zealand's company "Pros Shlard" to study restructuring the fishing sector in Yemen at \$ 500,000. Under the agreement, the New Zealand's company will study current situation of the sector and fishing institutions to find out solutions for all issues facing development of the sector.

The 24 months study aims at improving the sector of fisheries wealth. The agreement was signed by minister of fisheries wealth Mohammed Shamlan and New Zealand board chairman of the company.

Shamlan urged the company to study the sector deeply and make sure from credibility while it is doing the study.

For his part, the director of the fifth fish project Amr Awad said that the study would be key element of the project, which is cost \$ 32 million funded by world bank and European Union.

PM opens 4th Sana'a festival for story and novel

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar opened on Saturday 4th Sana'a festival for story and novel, which is organized by Ministry of Culture in coordination with the Story Club. The festival will last until next Monday. Some 200 Yemeni and Arab authors and novelists are taking part in the festival.

In the opening session of the festival, Mujawar affirmed importance of honest words to enhance principles of tolerance, dialogue and democracy, indicating to the role of Yemeni intellectual in strengthening such principles and unity.

He also affirmed concern of the government to support cultural activities in the nation, highlighting role of the writers and intellectuals in protecting unity, security and stability of the nation. Among Arab participants in the festival are Dr. Huda al-Noaimi, a Qatar novelist, Alias Farkoh, a Jordanian novelist, Azat al-Qahmawi, an Egyptian author, Abdul-Salam, a Tunisian criticizer, Moroccan criticizer Dr. Mubarak Rabya, Syrian criticizer Dr. Abdullah Abu Hifa, Saudi story writer Zynab Hafni, Saudi criticizers, Hassan al-Nomai and Sultan al-Qahtani and Omani story writer Suliman al-Mamari.

171 antique pieces foiled to be smuggled via Sana'a airport

Security systems managed to foil smuggling attempts of 171 antique pieces at Sana'a International Airport during the first half of 2008. These antique pieces are reported to have been possessed by 10 people of Yemeni, Arab and foreign nationals. Director of Antiquities Office at Sana'a International Airport Ali al-Mahsani has stated to Saba that those pieces, which refer back to the Islam and pre-Islam periods, include a number of bronze and stone statues, stone stamps, coins, scripts and others.

Saudi medical mission to perform cardiac surgeries for Yemeni children

A Saudi medical mission, led by the head of the cardiac surgery department at the prince Sultan Cardiac Center Huwaida al-Qathami, has arrived in Yemen to perform cardiac surgeries for Yemeni children with congenital heart defects.

Al-Qathami said the visit comes under the orders of the custodian of the two holy mosques king Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and the Saudi crown prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz and aims to boost bilateral relations between the two neighbor countries particularly in the medical area.

She made clear the surgeries to be carried out would be of those related to

Congenital heart defect corrective surgeries for children, newborns and young who still suffer from congenital heart defects. She added that about 160 patients have been examined and over than 180 would be medically examined to be treated at the al-Thowra General Hospital.

The mission comprises of 39 cardiac surgery specialists from the Saudi Defense and Health ministries. The mission will be performing surgeries for more than three weeks along with Yemeni doctors who will try to benefit from the experiences of their Saudi counterparts.

Sana'a to host 17th Arab Scouts Meeting

Yemen will host the 17th Arab Scouts Meeting and the 10th International Meeting of Civilization which will be held during 15-25 August in Sana'a with the participation of 22 Arab countries.

General envoy of the Yemeni Boys and Girls Scouts Association Abdullah Obeid said on Friday to Saba that preparations are underway to host this Arab event under close follow-up of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. He revealed that the preparatory committee has reached an agreement with a commercial company to sponsor this important Arab event in return for YR10 million of which YR5 million have been received.

LAHI**UNICEF projects in Lahj discussed**

Lahj governor Muhsin al-Naqib headed on Saturday a meeting between directors of education, health, planning and international cooperation offices and representative of UNICEF office over the organization's activities in the governorate.

The meeting focused on the UNICEF health and educational activities. Al-Naqib valued UNICEF positive role in offering support for offices of education and health in Tor al-Baha and Halmin districts, wishing further support to other districts in the governorate.

ADEN**YEC exports 6,000 tons of salt to Seychelles**

Yemeni Economic Corporation (YEC) exported 6,000 tons of salt during the first half of 2008 to Seychelles islands with a total cost of US \$ 210,000. The director of salt sector in Aden Abdul Rahman Hassan told Saba that the corporation aims in its production plan for the second half of 2008 to increase its salt export to Seychelles and some European markets. He added that the export process would be via French companies voiced their desire to import and marketing the Yemeni salt.

Their News

Newspapers To Celebrate Reading On World Literacy Day

The World Association of Newspapers is now offering materials for publication in newspapers around the world that wish to commemorate International Literacy Day on 8 September.

The materials, which are available from the WAN website at <http://www.wan-press.org/youngreader>, include an eight-part serialised story for children, and comic strips and panels from some of the world's most notable cartoonists.

International Literacy Day on 8 September was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to highlight the status of literacy and adult learning globally. Some 774 million adults lack minimum literacy skills world-wide; one in five adults is not literate and two-thirds of them are women; 72.1 million children are out-of-school and many more attend irregularly or drop out, according to UNESCO.

The serialised story being offered by WAN, *Frannie Learns a Lesson*, is designed to encourage family reading. The package includes artwork and an activity guide and is offered in English and Spanish (translation into other languages is allowed and encouraged).

The materials are being offered through the WAN Young Reader Programme, which is supported by the Norwegian paper manufacturer Norske Skog. The story and illustrations were donated by the authors and the artist - Cathy Sewell, Jenni Duke and Glenn McCoy - while the cartoons are being provided with the help of the National Cartoonists Society, King Features

Syndicate, Universal Press Syndicate and the New York Times Syndicate.

Jim Davis, creator of Garfield, is among several major cartoonists who will donate a cartoon that any newspaper can use on 8 September. WAN is also suggesting that newspapers with their own cartoonists produce cartoons with a literacy theme on 8 September.

UK-Yemen sign 5-year Justice and Policing Agreement

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) signed an agreement today with the Government of Yemen on support to Yemen's Judiciary and Police Services.

The United Kingdom (UK) has agreed to provide technical cooperation to Yemen over the next 5 years from September 2008. The agreement includes the provision of specialist advisers to both the Ministries of Interior and Justice to promote Judicial and Police reform. Specific activities will include supporting improvements in the following: performance management; information management; judicial and police accountability; and service delivery at community level. The programme will also aim to enhance donor coordination in the Justice and Policing Sector.

DFID chose to engage in Yemen's Justice and Policing Sector in 2005, recognising that improving people's security and access to justice promotes stability and can prevent violent conflict. The agreement signed today creates a Justice and Policing Programme (JPP) that will build on earlier support from the UK to Yemen over the past year and a half. The last 18 months have allowed both the governments of Yemen and the UK to

understand better the needs of the Judiciary and Police and to explore which areas of intervention are the most likely to be successful.

The agreement was signed, for the Government of Yemen, by HE Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al-Arhabi, Minister of Interior H. E. Major General Mutahar al-Masri, Minister of Justice H. E. Dr. Gazi Shaif Al-Agbari, as well as, for the United Kingdom, by the British Ambassador, His Excellency Tim Torlot.

Deloitte in the Middle East revenues grow over 30%

Deloitte Middle East announced today the results of fiscal year 2008 (May 31), with another very strong performance and an increase in revenues of more than 30%, once again achieving more growth than the aggregate global rate for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (DTT) of 18.6%. "This exceptional growth is fuelled by a marked increase in advisory service line participation in addition to healthy growth on the assurance side," commented Omar Fahoum, CEO Deloitte Middle East. "That we can produce such results in a climate of a global downturn is a testament to our ability to be always one step ahead."

While on a visit to the ME region recently, John Connolly, Chairman of DTT's Global Board of Directors, had already highlighted the growth: "This part of the world is fast becoming more important to our network and we have well-developed plans to move people and invest in our business here," said Connolly. "While our Middle East firm is already growing at a fast pace, in excess of 30% a year, the nature of the things we do is pushing us to put ever deeper skills

into our areas of speciality."


Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu ("Deloitte") announced that fiscal year 2008 aggregate member firm revenue increased by 18.6 percent in U.S. dollars, and 13.0 percent in local currencies, to US\$27.4 billion. This marks Deloitte's sixth consecutive year of U.S. dollar double-digit revenue growth from continuing operations. Every service line and every geographic region delivered strong growth. Deloitte aggregate revenues were US\$23.1 billion in FY2007.

Financial Advisory services grew at 26.6 percent to US\$2.4 billion, followed by consulting services at 22.2 percent to US\$6.3 billion, tax and legal at 20.4 percent to US\$6.0 billion, and audit at 14.8 percent to US\$12.7 billion.


When announcing the results, Deloitte Global CEO Jim Quigley said, "Our people's continued focus on excellence and their demonstrated ability to work together across geographies to meet our clients' needs is fundamental to our success. Our results show that our client-centric business model built upon a global culture of consultation and collaboration—and delivery through strong member firms with global connections—is a winning strategy."

In the past year, Deloitte grew by approximately 15,000 people with considerable growth in the emerging markets. Globally, Deloitte now has approximately 165,000 people operating in 140 countries.

Deloitte also remains committed to building upon its strong reputation as a responsible global citizen. Its professionals have always been passionate about making a positive impact on the communities in which they work and live. Today, they are more dedicated than ever to strengthening corporate responsibility. As



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Family planning course launched in Aden

Aden launched on Saturday a training course in the field of family planning for 20 women health cadres which will last for 6 days funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In the opening of the course, director of Reproductive Health Management in Aden Nadia Sa'ad affirmed the importance of providing the necessary information to participants with necessary knowledge to participate in the promotion of the concept of family planning.

For his part, the UNFPA official Azah al-Zabeidi affirmed the importance of benefiting from the session to improve reproductive health services and family planning methods.

Aden, Djibouti universities sign agreement of academic cooperation

Aden University and its Djibouti University signed on Thursday an agreement of academic and cultural cooperation for 2008-2010. Under the agreement, the Aden university would prepare a study program in bachelor in field of accounting and Arabic language and business management for the Djibouti University. The Aden University would also present Arabic references and publi-

cations in these studies to the University of Djibouti. The agreement was signed by rectors of both universities. Rector of Aden University Abdul-Aziz bin Habor expressed happiness for signing the agreement, highlighting good ties between the two countries. For his part, the rector of Djibouti University Fahmi Ahmed praised high level of Aden university and its study programs, saying that his university works to develop Arabic study. Djibouti university was set up in 2000.

HAJJAN**Exports cost through al-Tuwail outlet reached YR7.7 bln**

Volume of Yemeni exports cost via al-Tuwail land outlet reached YR7.7 billion during the first half of 2008 compared YR5 billion to the same period of 2007. The exports are mainly focused on fish and agricultural products. Director general of al-Tuwail Customs Salem bin Buraik has told Saba that customs has achieved a remarkable increase in customs revenues at a percentage of 15% compared the same period of the last year, making clear that this increase is due to the commercial exchange between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and other facilities granted to comers to Yemen.

Omar Fahoum puts it, "It's the right thing for all businesses to play their part in the overall corporate responsibility agenda. At Deloitte Middle East we recognize corporate responsibility as a strategic priority and strive to significantly elevate our impact on a regional level."

Quigley remains confident about Deloitte's continued success because of the strength of its model, which combines local depth and global scale. "These are clearly uncertain economic times. Our focus on innovation together with our strong global culture and diversity of skills will enhance our ability to assist our clients as they compete in these turbulent times. At Deloitte, we remain focused on our long-term success and will continue to invest in our people, new products and services, and maintain our long-standing commitment to corporate responsibility," he said. Details of the DTT financial results and its firms' approach to clients and people are available on www.deloitte.com

U.S. Not Living Up to Rhetoric on Support for Democracy in Egypt

The United States must pair its tough rhetoric on promoting democracy in the Middle East with genuine actions that support the region's democratic activists, such as Egyptian political prisoner Ayman Nour.

President George W. Bush called for Nour's release in a speech yesterday that outlined progress on his "Freedom Agenda." He also urged senior diplomats to "maintain regular contact with political dissidents and democracy activists" in autocratic countries. Nour, a former member of the Egyptian Parliament, has been in prison for nearly three years on

trumped up forgery charges after winning the second-largest number of votes in the country's 2005 presidential election.

"More than mere words and visits are needed to free Nour from his prison cell and open a space for free expression in Egypt," said Jennifer Windsor, Freedom House executive director. "Congress and the Bush administration must use all tools at their disposal—including direct assistance to dissidents, foreign aid and diplomacy—if they are to have any real impact in the Middle East."

Bush's speech coincided this week with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak pardoning more than 1,500 prisoners, including those convicted of murder. Nour was not among those pardoned and his attempts to appeal for release on medical grounds, citing diabetes and heart problems, have been denied. Mubarak's repressive regime is also waging a systematic crackdown on the so-called "Facebook activists," who use the social networking site to advocate for democracy. Egypt arrested 26 of these activists over the last several days for "threatening public security."

"All the world knows that Mr. Nour was imprisoned on trumped up charges because he had the temerity to present himself as a candidate for president of Egypt in 2005," Windsor said. "While his lengthy incarceration is an affront, first of all, to the people of Egypt who desire to live in a democratic society, it must also be seen as an indirect slap at the United States for urging Mubarak to relax his grip on the political system."

Egypt is ranked Not Free in the 2008 edition of Freedom in the World, Freedom House's survey of political rights and civil liberties, and Partly Free in the 2008 version of Freedom of the Press.

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 ملابس، سارع واكتسب عروض الصيف الساحبة
 من باناسونيك وانضم عالم التكنولوجيا المتطورة

تذكركم باناسونيك هذا الصيف عرضنا مذهلة تتفرد
 من غير أنما التخفيض من خلال عروض الصيف 2008
 تضمنكم هذه العروض بمراتب قيمة وهدايا مجانية من
 أجهزة التلفاز والأجهزة المنزلية كل الهدايا
 سيحصلها ضمن باناسونيك ماذا تنتظر أسرع لا تأخر
 بعرض أجهزة باناسونيك وانضم الفرصة فاعرض

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شركة ألفا للتجارة

Yemen has more than 40,000 internally displaced people due to Sa'ada war

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For The Yemen Times

Although President Ali Abdullah Saleh has declared that the war between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists in Sa'ada is now over, its impact remains obvious, particularly to the numerous internally displaced peoples – known as IDPs – who have been rendered homeless as a result of the lengthy fighting.

This is especially evident in Harf Sifyan, located between Sa'ada and Amran governorates, and Bani Hushaish just outside of Sana'a, where the conflict has left a wake of both personal and property damage.

Dozens of families in these restive

areas now are homeless and hundreds of formerly healthy individuals now are handicapped due to the continuous fighting.

This is the case for some 700 families who evacuated their homes in Harf Sifyan and approximately 100 families forced to evacuate their homes in Sa'ada's Bani Suraim and Houth districts, fleeing to the surrounding villages of Al-Eshah, Jabal Eial Zaid, Maswar and Amran city, in addition to other remote areas.

"We don't have anything to eat and the water is undrinkable," reported one man from an 11-member family in Harf Sifyan, who wished to remain anonymous for safety reasons. "We drink from ponds and live in deserted old homes, schools or mosques because we don't have tents. All of the

places we live in are crowded with other families who have suffered a similar fate," he noted.

"Many homes were destroyed and looted after residents left their farmlands and businesses. We now live in a miserable and unsettled situation," the man said, adding that the fighting prevented his four sons, who left school, from returning to take their exams.

Another 40-year-old man requesting anonymity for security reasons recounted that his wife and children were fear-stricken after a fighter jet destroyed their home and surrounding property on the first day of the most recent outbreak of fighting.

"I still remember that day when I was with my family and being subjected to gunfire during the battle between the two sides," the man recalled, adding, "I couldn't believe we had survived until I was about a kilometer away from the battlefield."

"The disaster that has befallen those in these warring areas is unforgettable," remarked another former Harf Sifyan resident in his 20s. "Several soldiers looted homes, taking everything inside – gold, guns, anything valuable."

Some residents of the war-torn areas allege that their properties were looted and their homes subjected to air strikes without prior notification by government forces, who promised to evacuate the areas they decided to raid.

"I went to Harf Sifyan with one officer. When I arrived at my house, I was surprised to see that it was open, with around 20 soldiers inside. I entered and

saw that everything was destroyed," one Harf Sifyan resident recounted. "We demand that our houses be rebuilt, our property returned and that we be compensated for what we've lost. We need nothing more than this."

"As a consequence of this war, I lost my ability to study this year because part of my school was destroyed and my family now is dispersed," said one 14-year-old student. "Even though I now may return to my home, I won't find anywhere to live because my home is destroyed."

Obaid Mardam, director of Amran's Yemeni Red Crescent Association, notes that more than 7,000 residents were evacuated due to confrontations between Yemeni army forces and Houthi loyalists in Sa'ada and Harf Sifyan regions.

He explains, "These people urgently need food and others suffer the same problem, but we can't reach them because armed groups looted three Red Crescent relief campaigns on May 25 in the Ghamr area of Amran governorate's Houth district."

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the war in Sa'ada has directly affected approximately 100,000 people. "The Sa'ada community has witnessed massive deterioration since the beginning of 2008 due to this war on one hand and food price hikes on the other," ICRC spokesperson Iman Muanqar notes.

She adds, "We're concerned about affected families and their situations and we ask the two sides to facilitate aid." Thousands of Sa'ada residents



Sa'ada children who have survived the conflicts.

have become dependent upon humanitarian aid just since the beginning of this year.

Approximately 40,000 people were evacuated from Sa'ada in total, nearly 8,000 of whom are living in camps while others are living with host families or relatives elsewhere, according to Muanqar.

The Sa'ada war has gone on for four years with spurts of intense violence throughout, which also has resulted in the deterioration of the governorate's infrastructure.

Because of this, access to potable water and health services are poor and infrequent, according to the ICRC, which maintains an office in Sa'ada governorate. Eleven international

employees and 30 locals work there, in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent Association, to provide humanitarian aid to IDPs.

During the past six months, the Red Cross has assisted 80,000 area residents in the form of tents, furniture, air conditioners and household necessities. Relief groups daily provide drinking water to 5,000 IDPs in three different camps, which also have been outfitted with toilets. According to Muanqar, the ICRC also offers 56,000 Sa'ada residents health services via mobile medical teams.

She adds, "Many people's homes and farms were destroyed, so we're now working to enable them to resume their normal lives."



Access to potable water and health services are poor and infrequent.

The mysterious case of Jamil Dehbash:

Prisoner who died of unknown causes was buried without permission

By: Nisreen Shadad
For The Yemen Times

Jamil Mohammed Dehbash had been imprisoned for approximately three years at Al-Thawra Prison when he died at age 23 and was buried before anyone had the chance to investigate the cause of his death.

Dehbash is just one of innumerable prisoners who have died after allegedly being tortured and not given medical treatment. His body was buried without permission from the Public Prosecution Office, however, his mother and human rights activists from the National Organization for Protecting Rights and

Freedom, known as HOOD, are seeking to change this practice. "There are no accurate statistics about the number of prisoners who are tortured or have died while in prison because people don't complain," says Khalid Al-Anisi, executive director of HOOD. "They think, 'If your opponent is the judge, whom do you bring suit against?'"

Dehbash's older brother and uncle had him arrested for disobedience to his parents. "The police refused to jail him because he had committed no crime, so his older brother accused him of stealing," Dehbash's mother, Um Jamil, recounted.

"According to an eyewitness, he experienced numerous types of torture in

prison," Dehbash's lawyer Yasser Allawo says.

"In his last days, my son told me that he would be killed, showing me a stab wound on his neck and a bruise on his shoulder," Dehbash's mother recalled.

"The medical examiner first told me that my son had died from torture, but after a few days, he [changed and] said he had committed suicide by hanging himself," she added.

"Jamil's mother complained to the Public Prosecution, which subsequently ordered the prison facility not to bury [Dehbash's] body until they had investigated his cause of death," explained Abdulrahman Barman, an attorney working with HOOD. "However, this

order didn't reach Al-Thawra Hospital." Al-Thawra Hospital shares its name but has no affiliation with Al-Thawra Prison, though the two facilities are located near each other.

"We had no order not to bury Dehbash," Al-Thawra Hospital security officer Ahmed Al-Adlah noted, adding that the hospital had received a Public Prosecution order to conduct a collective burial for several prisoners and Dehbash was buried with them.

Fahd Al-Ahmadi, head of the investigation at Al-Thawra Hospital, explained, "If an individual dies in prison, we immediately take him or her to the hospital. If there's a complaint against the prison, a medical examiner is brought in

to examine the cause of death – with the permission of the Public Prosecution."

Al-Ahmadi denies that Al-Thawra Prison employs any type of torture, noting that if torture was used, it would be done on political prisoners, not petty criminals. However, Al-Anisi says torture of political detainees in Yemeni prisons has decreased because they are under intense media scrutiny, so it has increased with those prisoners who have committed non-political crimes, particularly theft and manslaughter.

A little more than two weeks after his arrest, Dehbash was placed in the prison's mental health ward in September 2004 because he suffered psychological problems and was in need

of frequent medical attention, according to documents signed by ward's manager, Mohammed Sallam.

Torture inside prisons has no limits due to weak oversight by both Prosecution and the judiciary, Al-Anisi alleges, further pointing out that the number of prisoners who have died without credible reasons has increased.

The Yemen Times contacted Nabil Shuja'a Al-Din, manager of the investigation unit at Al-Thawra Prison, in an effort to obtain more information about the legality of keeping Dehbash in prison while he suffered physical or psychological illnesses, but Al-Din said he wasn't authorized to provide any information.

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- Supervise technical department in connection to technical design matters and drafting works.
- Coordination with the customer or client representative at site on all matters related to the design of the project, including change orders or variation orders.
- Reviewing the actual work progress against planned program, deliveries of construction materials and taking corrective action if required to meet the work schedule in consultation with the Project Coordinator / General Manager.

2) Civil Engineer / Quantity Surveyor

Job Profile:

- The Civil Engineer / Quantity Surveyor reporting to the Technical Manager is responsible for:
- Preparation and carrying out preliminary civil & Architectural design, sketches and details involved in the project.
 - Providing any assistance required by the Technical manager during the design and tendering stage.
 - Assist in the preparation of BOQ or Material Take-Off, quotation and cost analysis as required by the Technical Manager to any prospective client.
 - Providing any assistance required by the Technical Manager during design stage, including preparation of BOQ, follow up quotation and cost analysis as required from the suppliers.
 - Assist and follow up in sourcing of suppliers.

3) Architectural Engineer

Job Profile:

- Preparation and carrying out preliminary civil & Architectural design in AUTOCAD, sketches and details involved in the project or tender.
- Preparation of draft and final Civil & Architectural design drawings and details as required on the project for the technical manager approval.
- Providing any assistance required by the Technical manager during the design stage.
- Assist in the preparation of BOQ, quotation and cost analysis as required by the Technical Manager to any prospective client.
- Assist and follow up in sourcing of client
- Preparation of carrying out preliminary civil and architectural drawings, sketches, and details involved in the project.
- Providing any assistance required by the Technical Manager during design stage, including preparation of BOQ, follow up quotation and cost analysis as required from the suppliers.

4) Geodetic Engineer (Surveyor)

Job Profile:

One good Geodetic Engineer (Surveyor) with BS college diploma and very good experience in vertical (building) and horizontal construction on site surveying works, topography with the use of total station, theodolite, level including the use of all kinds of survey tools and instrument, like GPS, plus data recording, downloading and uploading survey results, etc. for any surveying operation.

Applicants are requested to send their CVs to email: jquimson@griffin-ltd.com or fax No. 445963
Please mention the post you're applying for.

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Water and Environment
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project
IDA Credit No. 3700-YEM

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة المياه والبيئة
مشروع المياه والصرف الصحي للمدن الحضرية

Re-announcement Request for Expressions of Interest Provision of training

This request for expression of interest (Eoi) follows the general procurement notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business No. 583, dated May 31, 2002.

The Republic of Yemen has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the contract for the provision of training to key staff of the Local Water Supply and Sanitation Corporations. The training to be provided includes the following training courses:

Group 1: Eoi to be submitted by local providers only

English language training,
Computer skills training, and
MS-Excel skills training.

Group 2: Eoi to be submitted by local and/or regional providers

Basic Water Supply and Wastewater Collection and Treatment,
Occupational Health and Safety,
Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers,
Basic management,
Problem Analysis/Decision Making,
Communication Skills,
Organization Structuring,
Strategic Management/Business Planning,
Modern Utility Management,
Time Management,
MIS/Performance Monitoring and Reporting, and
Reporting skills

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the UWSSP, on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Environment invites eligible local and regional training providers to indicate their interest in providing one or more of the above mentioned training courses. Interested training providers must provide information that they are qualified to perform the requested services (brochures, description of providing similar services). In case of regional training providers, joint ventures or associations with local training providers are encouraged. The venue for all training to be provided will be Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

A training provider (or a joint venture/association) will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997, revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002, and is open to all firms from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested training providers may obtain further information between 09.00 and 14.30 hrs at the address below.

Two copies of the Eoi must be delivered to the address below not later 30th July, 2008 at 1.00 pm (Yemen Standard Time) to the address below.

The minimum requirements for short listing are:

Submission of the latest company's prospectus/profile (with attachments, if necessary),
Description of/References from previous and ongoing similar assignments.

Project Manager
Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project
Al-Mugashi Villa
North to Al-Jandool Supermarket/behind Al-Dewan restaurant,
Hadda, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel: 967 1 425253/4 Fax: 967 1 425255
E-mail: uwssp@y.net.ye



Invitation for International Bid

The International Telecommunication Company (TeleYemen) announces its interest to invite bidders to bid no. (TY/EMS/PP2-08) for:

Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) supply, installation, commissioning and dismantling services at TeleYemen Gurraf site in Sana'a
Bids must be sealed, received by 8/10/2008 at 11:00 am, and submitted by registered mail (Courier -express mail) in three (3) copies to:

Purchasing & Contracting Department
26th September St.
P.O. Box 168
TeleYemen
Sana'a, Yemen
Telephone:+ 967 777009410.

- Interested bidders can submit their request to buy the bid documents during the working hours to the above contact address
- The bid documents cost will be (\$ 200) non-refundable.
- The deadline for obtaining the bid documents will be 10 September 2008.
- All bidders must submit the following with their bids:
 - 1- A bid security equal to \$ 25,000, which can be in the form of either a certified check, or an irrevocable bank guarantee from a reputable bank
 - 2- A Valid tax certificate
 - 3- A Valid registration and classification certificate

The deadline for bids submission and opening will be 8/10/2008 at 11:00 am. Bids opening will take place at TeleYemen Headquarter, Sep. Building, 26th Sep Street.



Invitation for Bid

The International Telecommunication Company (TeleYemen) announces its interest to invite bidders to bid no. (TY/MKT/2-08) for:

Marketing and Advertising Services Supply
Bids must be sealed, received by 23/8/2008 at 11:00 am, and submitted by registered mail (Courier -express mail) in three (3) copies to:

Purchasing & Contracting Department
26th September St.
P.O. Box 168
TeleYemen
Sana'a, Yemen
Telephone:+ 967 777009410.

- Interested bidders can submit their request to obtain the bid documents during the working hours to the above contact address
- The deadline for obtaining the bid documents will be 3 August 2008.
- All bidders must submit the following with their bids:
 - 1- A bid security equal to \$ 5,000, which can be in the form of either a certified check, or an irrevocable bank guarantee from a reputable bank
 - 2- A Valid tax certificate
 - 3- A Valid registration and classification certificate

The deadline for bids submission and opening will be 23/8/2008 at 11:00 am. Bids opening will take place at TeleYemen Headquarter, Sep. Building, 26th Sep Street.

Words of Wisdom



In the Third World today, the rulers have no fixed budgets or allocations, even when these exist on paper. The rulers simply spend as they please. Actually, the only limiting element is the lack of funds or the general poverty of the country. Here in Yemen, this problem exists in a shameless way. Just a couple of weeks ago, a number of government palaces built by foreign aid were simply given away to the top president's men.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

A dream for Arab youth

At the third youth conference organized by the Arab Thought Forum in Amman, Prince Hassan bin Talal president of the forum inaugurated the conference by describing a dream he has for Arab youth. His dream was that a time would come when the young men and women of our countries would be free in spirit and mind, and would feel confident that they can. He also described the environment at which he thought this dream could be true; an environment where the adults provide positive guidance and encouragement for the youth, and where praise comes more readily than discouragement.

In the same conference, the talented Samar Mazghani one of the youngest authors of the Arab world also described the situation of Arab youth. She gave a metaphore describing a narration in Gabriel García Márquez's "one hundred years of solitude" where one of the heroes entertains himself by imagining to walk from one room to another to another and all the rooms look alike, and when he wanted to come out of this day dreaming he would retreat his steps throughout the journey between rooms until he wakes to the room of reality. "How come I can't find my way back to reality, while for most of the Arab youth they either live without dreams or dream without living," she said.

"Enough dreaming and not living," she said, "No more talk about youth and what they can or cannot, it is time for us to start doing instead of just being a subject for discussion".

This was one of the very few conference, if not the only one, I have witnessed where youth were the ones to do all the talk and adults would listen. They talked about their concerns, about their dreams and about their work. Contradictory to my assumption and I guess many other adults, the youth of today are not depressed. They are frustrated but they see hope and it is so easy to lift their spirit when times are tough. Unlike us adults, they dream and aspire much more than discourage and stay "real".

To be honest, hearing the young men and women talk I felt ashamed because I realized we really don't listen to them much in our daily life. We are more occupied by what should be done, and by endorsing a system whereby we want all including youth, to live by. Even though that they don't understand it, and worse, most of the time they don't want it.

It was amazing how Prince Hassan was able to empathize with the youth and speak for them, dreaming their dream that a time would come when the chains we as adults keep binding them with would be broken. But for the record, I want to explain to the wild eyed youth of today that one day we too were as wild. And life's disappointments wore the glow from our eyes and this is why we have the Don'ts and You Can'ts are more readily given than words of encouragement.

So probably it is true that life is tough and that one has to struggle hard to achieve success, but come to think of it, maybe we should let the young ones make their own mistakes and provide them with an environment where they are able to dream and achieve.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Ibn Khaldoun seems to be living with us

By: Abdullah Awbal

States undergo the same stages undergone by man. They undergo stages of youth, prosperity and bloom, and then progress toward senescence, according to the viewpoint of the great Arab sociologist Abdurrahman Ibn Khaldoun. His theory of the three stages and climate's effect on the performance of peoples, according to August, are merely a kind of substantial evidence in support of words said by the great Arab sociologist.

Despite the fact that the Theory of Fanaticism and the Khaldouni State were the product of observing development of the Arab Moroccan Society, having a thorough glance at Ibn Khaldoun's description and conclusions takes the Yemeni reader to a state of homogeneity between those facts and our current social situation.

Our society seems to be progressing according to the striking features and development of a society, which Ibn Khaldoun determined more than seven centuries ago. The Khaldouni Theory was not experimented on the ground although it was a condensed summary of the development of state and governance in the Arab Muslim society until the sociologist's era.

The Arab society hasn't witnessed fundamental developments in the sphere of governance and exercise of power since Ibn Khaldoun's era. Of course, the modern western state was imitated via institutionally formal matrixes, however, the mentality of

emirate, Imamate and snappish monarch still is remarkable in our environments.

Even when the absolute majority is achieved, fanaticism remains stronger in the tribal climate. A powerful tribe usually has loyal sub-tribes and obtains good entitlements from the state's treasury. When the state prospers and people move from the nomadic life to urbanization, as well as excessively use unnecessary things, plus the necessary ones and live in luxury, the tribal fanaticism weakens and the tribe begins to lose its power. Demands of tribal allegiance increase the burden on the state, thereby resulting in high taxation rates, and the state's treasury becomes unable to cover expenses of tribal allegiances. Consequently, weakness and fragility grows and new fanatic entities come into existence, begin competing with the ruler and think about assuming power by any possible means.

A state is the primary tradesman and power generates money. This is an abnormal earning of livelihood. An Arab national doesn't favor productive work, nor does he contribute to production, and his subsistence is on the tip of his spear. In many times, governance stands against urban residents and levy heavy taxes on them. Consequently, this allows primitive and nomadic people to attack and loot cities.

Urban residents easy to control: Urban residents are usually craftsmen and small tradesmen, which is why

they are usually seen as weak people and easy to control. In fact they are not weak, but weakness is imposed on them because they are neither powerful nor qualified to engage in confrontations with their governments.

In addition to senescence, these states may fall through defeat by other powerful states.

As a result, this is due to weaken their status and sovereignty, and encourage other fanatic groups to revolt against the ruling regimes. They can fall as a result of economic crisis, as the states' treasuries may not be able to cover growing spending and expenses needed by loyal tribes, which are expected to organize rebellious movements against the government if it doesn't meet their demands.

It is unwise to hurry up in ignoring real changes, even if they were not fundamental, in the spheres of social and cultural structure, contemporary communication means and the roles of armies and wealth in defeating enemies and adapting with the contemporary forms of institutional organization. In fact, what happens is merely a reproduction of the traditional society. To have a glance at Ibn Khaldoun's Theory necessitates connecting it with contemporary developments while the main reason here requires absorbing the method via which one can influence the social structure and make fundamental changes in a way encouraging building a civil society coping with demands of the time and contributing to its development.

Source: Al-Masdar.com

Sending Yemeni students overseas: scholarships or ordeals

By: Hamza Abbas Al-Qirshi

I don't suspect that there is a state mastering humiliation of its students overseas like ours does. Yemeni students sent abroad with the purpose of completing their higher studies face multiple problems and difficulties, which one may not expect or imagine. Such problems begin and end within the premises of our government's embassies and consulates that are supposed to work on overcoming any obstacles facing their citizens, as well as contribute to resolving problems experienced by their subjects in the various countries.

This is what we know about the majority of Arab states' embassies, except for Yemen's, as they care a lot about serving their subjects in other nations.

Yemeni government's embassies change scholarships into ordeals, of which the hardship are suffered the most by native students sent to continue their higher studies. These students don't complain of the delay of financial entitlements accrued to them only. Furthermore, they suffer another problem related with deducting certain amounts from their entitlements in some of their government's consulates. Here, I talk about Yemeni government's consulates in general and its consulate in Berlin, Germany in particular.

As a result, Yemeni students sent to study overseas turn to be a symbol of sit-ins and protests in front of their embassies. They waste much of their valuable time, supposed to be spent on studies, in staging sit-ins, pursuing

complicated procedures and claiming their rights. Even worse, they don't escape humiliations like what happened to one of them at the Yemeni Consulate based in Berlin, which has become a symbol for dictatorship. Any student, who dares to claim his rights, faces threats that all his financial entitlements will be wholly suspended.

Threatened to be coerced to beg: Humiliation suffered by overseas students reached the extent of threats saying to them: "We will make you beg livelihood". So, which humiliation will be worse than this, what a kind of atmosphere these students will live, which scientific acquisition we should talk about if this is the way Yemeni students overseas are treated by their government's embassies and consulates.

I don't know how these students can learn as they found themselves between ignorance of the Ministry of Education and irresponsible and dishonest officials, who exploit their powers to embezzle any money accrued to them.

At this point, I don't file my charges randomly and anyone who is cynical about this issue should ask these scholars sent to Germany.

The surprising thing is that officials in the Ministry of Education know about these practices and never pay attention to them as if this doesn't concern them.

If officials inside the country behave this way, it becomes impossible for one to imagine that those diplomats serving abroad will be responsible and honest.

All these ordeals negatively affect

the main objective why a Yemeni student is sent to study overseas. Those humble students remain concerned about how to secure their livelihood, particularly as many of them were not allowed to continue their courses in language institutes for being unable to settle fees.

A Yemeni student studying in Europe or elsewhere has become a source of bathos and sympathy, thereby helping them get discounts from educational institutions where they are enrolled after officials of these institutions realize their hard economic conditions.

Source: Marebpress.net

SILVER LINING

The paradox of "Mashaqir" and the religious police

I think the best response to the establishment of a religious police force, under the banner of promoting virtue and curbing vice, is the mashaqir (traditional flowers women put on either side of their head) function run by the House of Folklore. I was extremely thrilled with spiritual joy with the function that revived in everybody nostalgia for a simple and pure life for both men and women free from extremism and fanaticism. The mashaqir, a singular form of mashaqir, is a symbol of chastity and freedom women enjoyed in an ordinary rustic life. It also stands for an abused femininity now by a puritanical interpretation of life where everything is devilish and hellish and a male-dominated and masculine culture that considers women inferior to men.

See the paradox between a group of fundamentalist clerics that want to kill life and a function organized by Arwa Othman, director of House of Folklore, that wants to revive and breathe life into the society and women through restoring the culture of the mashaqir. I have so much respect for this woman who has been relentlessly working to preserve the Yemeni abstract folklore, collecting both verbal and nonverbal heritage that represents a very significant aspect of our society fabric. The irony is that some are devoted to life and its beauty and others to death and its horror.

Anyway, by this commission the regime is ensuring its continuity in power through its coalition with the religious establishment. It is a revival of the cozy marriage between the tribes, clergy and the rulers. The president is using those clerics led by Sheikh Abdulmajeed al Zindani, the hardline rector of the Islamic Al Eman University, as an instrument to blackmail the US which has been exercising pressure on the regime to hand over terrorist suspects. They will be also an instrument in the political fights the regime is having now in Sa'ada and in the southern governorates as well as the upcoming elections in 2009. That is very clear from the statement of the clerics who opted for a military action in Sa'ada, condemned the protests in the south. They also rejected the accusations to Sudanese president Omar al-Basheer as well as called for dropping the name of al-Zindani from the UN and US list for terrorism financiers. I do not know where virtue lies here. It is all about politics. We all know well some of the puppet clerics or tribal figures who set themselves as guards of "virtue" have no clean history either at the moral or political levels.

If these guys are serious about their objectives which are to promote virtue and curb vice, I guess the first thing they should do is to talk about corruption which is now the major headache of the country. It is corruption and the absence of law and order that have perverted our life and encouraged some immoral behaviors here and there.

These clerics are just concerned about sex and women and that is all. They do see only the sexual aspect of women and never think of them as human beings. I do not know why the quota system to support women political participation is against religion. It was President Saleh who proposed quota that would guarantee 15 per cent of parliamentary seats for women and it is his job to respect his pledge.

To drive the point home, the establishment of such a commission is not only a war on women and their rights but on the society at large. It is an infringement on the constitution and law. Religious police is against democracy and the basic human rights. And therefore, it is the responsibility of the regime to tell the international community and above all, its entire people whether it respects the democratic values that protect the lives of the people or not. The international donors concerned with human rights should also speak loud that establishing religious police is a violation of human rights and that such a commission means encouraging religious fanaticism which is a threat to international peace at large.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi



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Grand Opening of Compute Me New Office and Showroom By The Minister of Telecommunication & IT



Hon. Minister Kamal Al-Jabri, Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology, and Lieutenant Ali Al-Kuhlani, General Manager of the Yemen Economic Corporation, inaugurated Compute Me new office and showroom on 22nd July in Sana'a. Compute Me for IT & telecommunication is the key project in Yemen. Compute Me for IT & telecommunication shows the best and most recent products that, world has reached in the field of Information Technology & Telecommunication.

Hon. Minister Kamal Al-Jabri confirmed in the launch celebration that, opening such developed technical structure is a positive thing, maintaining that it carries out the directives of the political leadership that highlight raising the IT technology awareness.

Tributary

"We congratulate brothers in Yemen Economic Corporation and Compute Me on this great event which is a source of pride for all of us," said Hon. Kamal Al-Jabri. "We hope that Compute Me will be a main tributary to introduce different services particularly in the field of IT hardware maintenance, networks, and different telecommunication equipments."

Hon. Minister Kamal Al-Jabri



"We hope that Compute Me will be a main tributary to introduce different services particularly in the field of IT hardware maintenance, networks, and different telecommunication equipments."

Development

The minister made clear that technology market is always renewed and workers in this sector cope with all the changes in the technology markets. He pointed out that Information and Communication Technology sector in Yemen witnessed huge developments, maintaining that information technology receives great attention from the government. He said that inauguration of Compute Me is a manifestation of this attention and coping with the ongoing developments in the field of Information Technology.

Lieutenant Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlan



"Compute Me has become the pioneer sector in this trend as it targets in this sector raising the technical knowledge in the education sector in all its levels through the establishment of commuter laboratories in the primary schools and technical training institutes."

July 17

Lieutenant Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlani, General Manager of the Yemen Economic Corporation, confirmed that inaugurating of Compute Me New office and showroom is the great information structure comes in the occasion of the July 17 anniversary and as one accomplishment of this day. President Hon. Ali

Abdulla Saleh's dedicated his efforts through Yemen economic Corporation IT sector to reach the technology in all sectors. Lieutenant Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlani, General Manager of the Yemen Economic Corporation said "In all his visits to universities and schools, the president encourages the technology education. He gave his directives to distribute thousands of computers to universities and other institutions".

"The Yemen Economic Corporation was one of the bodies that carried out this national task. For our part, to carry out the political leadership's directives, we established Compute Me that contains all the most advanced IT hardware that, the world ever reached in the technical side."

A great event

Lieutenant Ali Al-Kuhlani declared that opening of Compute Me new office and showroom is considered an important technical and information event in the field of Information Technology. "We are glad that, Yemen Economic Corporation inaugurated Compute Me, which belongs to Information Technology & Telecommunication in its high level in order to make a great movement in the field of IT"



The Yemen Economic Corporation donated 10 laboratories to Sana'a schools and declared at 50% discounts for journalists, who are the members of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

The project targets the education sector

"Yemen Economic Corporation aim is to improve the knowledge in the field of information & technology," said Al-Kuhlani, adding, "The world develops very rapidly in this field and the modern means of age including computer and whatever means related to information technology. Compute Me has become the pioneer sector in this trend as it targets in this sector raising the technical knowledge in the education sector in all its levels through the establishment of computer laboratories in the primary schools and technical training institutes. We also target the group of teachers so that teachers can be trained and qualified to be able to deliver the educational message to students."



Installment System

General Manager of the Yemen Economic Corporation also confirmed that Compute Me targets these sectors with the installment system. This is one of the systems followed by the Yemen Economic Corporation in the process of spreading this technology in order to contribute to raise the level of information education in our country.

Ten laboratories

Lieutenant Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlani, General Manager of the Yemen Economic Corporation declared that the Yemen Economic Corporation donated ten computer laboratories to Sana'a schools. And at 50 percent discount for journalists, who are members of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.



Partnership

Lieutenant Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlani called the private sectors and companies, who are working with the IT sector to accelerate efforts to raise their performance in the technical and information side. He also called them to support the institution's efforts to promote the level of partnership with governmental and educational bodies. He also said that all those concerned sectors should pay attention to whatever related to the young since technology knowledge has become important in our daily life. He noted that new applicants in the employment field are considered illiterate if they don't have knowledge about technology and computer science, maintaining that illiteracy at present is no longer restricted to reading and writing but it includes information technology illiteracy.



Word of Compute Me executive manager in the celebration held at the Club of Military Forces officers on the occasion of inaugurating the company's new branch

Distinguished guests, welcome to this modest celebration on the occasion of inaugurating the new branch of Compute Me which is considered "for you alone" through its nomination "me". Let's all be Compute Me and let this be our slogan in the communication and information service world. We actually reached this level through your persistent efforts you exerted with us and thanks to cooperation of Compute Me partners and working staff. In addition, we are grateful to generous patronage of the general manager of the Yemeni Economic Institution, Lieutenant Ali Mohammed Al-Kuhlani who in turn thanks all of you for your attendance which delights us and your great efforts. I wish you all progress, prosperity and incessant development.

Distinguished guests, your presence with us today in this celebration will be everlasting in our memory, not because it's the sole one but because it is a launch of a step in the way of quick steps. This means that we promise that our steps will be firm and well-studied. The importance of this project is that it is a strategic project dealing with the present and draws the map of tomorrow. Furthermore, it has an economic importance since it is a developmental project concerned with human beings in terms of science, knowledge and qualifying. World today tends rapidly to widen the interaction circle through technology means which are involved in the daily interaction of individuals and institutions. Tomorrow carries with it a lot. Therefore, our trend is to work toward providing means and qualifying personnel so that our new generation will be armed with the interaction language of its era. This is what we aim to achieve in Compute Me. We offer all-inclusive solutions to recent technology sides in the information and communication systems. We have carried out many projects that reached both public and private sectors in different governorates of the republic. We also aim to deliver our services to all regions nationwide. So, we have opened our branches in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden governorates as a first stage which will be followed by new branches in Hadramout and Ibb governorates.

Distinguished guests, I don't want to talk a lot as what we have accomplished so far can give a brief on our trends. What we aim to work on will give the complete image. I wish you all the best. Thank you.



Mohammed Al-Kadas General Manager

Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, July 24, 2008

Top Stories

- Armed confrontations between army and Houthis renew in Harf Sifyan
- Supreme Anti-Corruption Authority backs draft Law of the Right to Know
- 8 injured, another 37 arrested as policemen tried to disperse peaceful protest
- Two policemen injured in clashes with slum dwellers

Local sources have affirmed that two soldiers were seriously injured on Sunday when policemen tried to evict slum dwellers, known as akhadams or marginalized people, from shacks they recently created in the heart of the Yemeni capital city of Sana'a, the website reported.

It quoted informed sources as saying that the police injured two slum dwellers, but did not manage to evict any of the roughly 80 families in the slum.

Slum dwellers explained to Sahwa.net that they would not move from their huts until they are given lands or accommodations as they could no longer afford to rent apartments which cost 25,000 riyals [US\$125] per month in Sana'a.

On its part, IRINnews.org reported that Police used a tractor to demolish about 10 tin shacks, according to Saad Ahmed Salem, a slum leader, but did

not succeed in evicting any of the roughly 200 families in the slum.

Ameen Jamaan, the deputy mayor of Sanaa, told IRIN: "We gave them notice to leave but they refused. Their makeshift homes would have developed into a neighborhood, which is against the city's plan."

Known as 'akhdaam' (Arabic: 'servants'), the slum-dwellers moved into Al-Hasabah neighborhood in June. "We admit the land doesn't belong to us, but we have found a suitable place to live. We could not pay the monthly rents in Sanaa," Salem told IRIN on 21 July.

"[They [policemen] attacked us with stones and batons when we tried to stop them. Eight of our people were slightly injured," he said, adding that the incident had caused panic. Women and children were shocked and could not sleep all night, he said. "We were worried the area would be set ablaze."



Al-Eshteraki.net, affiliated with Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)
Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Top Stories

- State Security Court prosecutes a new batch of protest activists from southern governorates
- Mukalla Security Department releases kidnapped journalist
- Court judges receive awards for prosecuting journalists and opinion writers
- YSP welcomes Saleh's decision to end Sa'ada war

YSP considered President Ali Abdullah Saleh's decision to end the war in Sa'ada governorate is "a popular and national demand", which the party once claimed at the level of its leaders and grassroots and as part of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), the website reported.

It went on to say that an official YSP source said the party called for establishing an internal dialogue with regard to any national issue, and at the same time rejecting use of force to settle any internal conflicts.

The same source added that the opposition party, which strongly objects to the use of force, wars, bloody conflicts and violence stresses the necessity of this decision embodying the national need for resolving aspects of such a comprehensive crisis experienced by the country.

YSP also demanded suggesting a workable solution to the pressing issue of South Yemen in a fair way that helps establish the state of national partnership for all Yemenis, stop dispatching more troops and artillery to fight civilians, release political detainees, and cease trials and crackdown of activists.

The YSP source expressed hope of his party that Saleh's decision may transfer into a strong step to resolve national conflicts and take Yemen to the right course of real democratic development, as well as help it get rid of the various crises, conflicts and violent acts.

The source continued, "Throughout its different stages, the Sa'ada War is responsible for the current nationwide crisis, and therefore the decision to end

it should meet expectations of Yemeni people. This decision must be transformed into a real action on the ground to prevent any possible resumption of the fighting.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (Ruling Party)
Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Top Stories

- Leading women stand up against banning Virtue Forum for Quota
- Senior government official in Taiz refuses to execute a court order
- Active Parliament members demand that government must restore smuggled antiquities
- Poor quality of tourist services attributed to inadequate staff training

Participants at the 1st Forum on Quality of Tourism & Transport Services in Yemen, held in Sana'a Saturday attributed poor quality of tourist services and transport in the country to inadequate training and qualification of relevant in order to know how to deal with foreign visitors touring the country and monitor services offered to them, the website reported.

The forum was held as part of activities of Sana'a Summer Tourist Festival, organised by the Global for Quality Systems in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism.

During the forum, participants clarified the difference between

specifications and criteria of classification of quality with those of the neighboring countries, multiplicity of monitoring and legislative bodies in tourist facilities as causes of notably low standard tourist services.

Many papers presented at the meeting recommended the Ministry of Tourism to modernize the system of classifying hotels and to develop it to keep pace with international criteria.

The papers also demanded preparation of criteria of classification and qualification of tourist facilities and establishment of criteria on monitoring quality of tourist installations. Participants held the Ministry of Tourism responsible implementing, monitoring and improving quality of tourist services.

According to the website's the papers' recommendations stressed the necessity of adopting a national program under the direct supervision of the Minister of Tourism with the aim of making Yemeni tourism more competitive at the local, regional and international levels. The forum's participants also agreed to hold a national conference at the end of this year on quality of tourism and transport.



26September.net, affiliated with the Yemeni Army
Thursday, 24, 2008

Top Stories

- Ruling General People Congress, National Opposition Council and

Baath party to sign document of national democratic coalition

- Supreme National Anti-Corruption Authority calls for effective partnership with civil society organizations
- Cabinet approves efforts to foster structure of Socotra Archipelago
- Cabinet forms ministerial committee to tour Sa'ada

The Cabinet on Tuesday formed a committee from the various ministries, headed by Minister of Local Administration Abdul-Qader Helal, to pay a field visit to the affected areas in the province of Sa'dah, the army's website reported in its lead story.

During its regular meeting, the Cabinet, under Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Mujawar, highly praised the responsible and national decision of taken by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to end the war in some areas of Sa'dah directorates, adding it reflects the serious national and humanitarian efforts to cease bloodshed.

According to the website, the Cabinet considered the decision as a way to bring back security and peace to those areas and enable displaced people return to their homes, as well as accelerate resumption of the development process for the Province at all levels and in various fields.

The website also reported that Cabinet members commended the heroic role of the armed and security forces and citizens in dealing with terrorist elements to exterminated rebellion, which targets the security and stability of homeland, re-wheels history backwards and hindered progress of development activities in the fighting-ravaged governorate.

Osama bin Laden, bard of terror

By: Bernard Haykel

In Riyadh last March, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia decorated American Vice President Dick Cheney with the Kingdom's Order of Merit. This gesture elicited hundreds of Internet postings from Arabs condemning the award as treachery and lamenting the pitiful state of leadership in the Arab world. To cite only one comment, addressed to the King: "Shame on you for claiming to be Custodian of the Two Holy Sanctuaries" in Mecca and Medina.

At the same time, Osama bin Laden released two audio statements condemning Western and Israeli attacks on Muslims and reiterating the need for violent warfare to liberate occupied Muslim territories from the infidels.

In terms of media strategy, the contrast between the leaders of the Arab countries and bin Laden could not be starker. On the one hand, Arab kings and presidents lack charisma, seem politically impotent and are rarely, if ever, on message with respect to the "big issue" concerns of the peoples of the Middle East.

Bin Laden, however, is mesmerizing, framing the perceived frustrations of many Arabs in his use of classical Arabic, including the recitation of medieval-style poetry. He deliberately projects an image of himself as a leader who speaks truthfully, conveying a muscular ideology that articulates the sense of humiliation that Muslims feel today and offers a plan of action to remedy the situation.

Arab culture places a high value on poetic expression, so it is no

coincidence that it appears repeatedly in Al Qaeda's propaganda. Bin Laden often recites poetry to underscore a point and to associate himself with chivalrous and learned warriors who were willing to become martyrs for Islam's honor and glory. Here are a few lines of the kind of poetry that Al Qaeda uses:

I do not sell our honor like a pimp that I should lower my eyes, or surrender.

I see the army of the Cross in our land, invading Iraq and rubbing our face in the dirt.

You who ask me to give up our jihad, and to live a life of comfort and happiness, Don't waste your breath. I will not give up the jihad while our community is gored with a poisoned knife;

No indeed, I will not give up the jihad

while their Crosses attack in the dark of night, Pollute Sacred Arabia, and proclaim the establishment of "security" while chaining my wrists.

It is difficult to know what to make of this literary material, and at times to understand it because of its archaic style, allusions and metaphors. But Al Qaeda's poetry deserves closer attention, because it is a medium of communication between members of the movement.

Indeed, through poetry, Al Qaeda defines what it means to be a member of the movement and commemorates the big episodes in the group's history by glorifying the exploits of "martyrs." Although much of this poetry is not necessarily of high quality, it nonetheless underscores the image that Al Qaeda's leadership wishes to project, namely that Al Qaeda's

message is authentic and reflects "real Islam."

Moreover, Al Qaeda uses poetry to address the challenges that it faces. Contrasting its fighters' bravery and commitment with the "comfort" of Muslim bystanders, Al Qaeda tries to rally more fighters to its cause in Iraq. Its dilemma is stark. The Shia of the Mahdi Army defeated Iraq's Sunnis in the last bout of fighting, and thousands of Iraqi Sunnis, under the so-called Awakening Movement, have rallied to the side of the United States forces and have fought against Al Qaeda.

In addition, many Sunni scholars have argued that Al Qaeda's ideology and tactics are illegitimate, and that Muslims should refrain from jihad and remain obedient to their rulers. The term for those who have not joined Al Qaeda's jihad is the "sitters" or the

"immobile ones" (qaaidun). Bin Laden wants these people to feel like sinners. Poetically, he attacks Muslim men's masculinity and sense of honor for not defending Islam.

This is the core of bin Laden's appeal: the ability to articulate the profound sense of injustice and humiliation that many Arabs and Muslims feel today. For all the violence perpetrated by Al Qaeda, bin Laden also relies on "soft" power, using arguments about injustice that resonate with his audience. A path between the extremes of jihad and blind obedience to the Middle East's authoritarian rulers must be found before Al Qaeda's message begins to lose some of its luster.

Bernard Haykel is Professor of Near East Studies at Princeton University. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008.

Spiderman in Tehran

By Amir Taheri

"A picture is worth a thousand words!" This is the proverb invented by an American photographer in the 1920s but ascribed to the Chinese for good effect. While not always true, like all other proverbs, it is surprisingly accurate on some occasions. No picture could replace a thousand words by Neffari or Rumi. But no number of words could replace the 1990 photo of an Afghan teenage girl with terror in her green eyes, reflecting two decades of war and famine.

Sometimes, however, words are needed to reveal the hidden meanings of a photo. For, on occasions, pictures disguise more than they reveal. This is why some editors attach as much importance to the art of writing captions as to the magic of devising headlines.

Last Saturday, 19 July 2008, Asharq Al Awsat published on its front page a news picture that offers a deep, perhaps unintended, insight into the current political mood of the Khomeinist rank-

and-file in Iran.

The picture had been taken a day earlier during the Friday prayer gathering at the campus of the Tehran University, an important weekly political event in the Iranian capital. Attended by up to 20,000 people, the gathering usually lasts around three hours of which about 20 minutes are devoted to prayer. The rest is taken up by sermons and political speeches during which senior clerics and official spokesmen introduce the government's latest slogans and political guidelines. The occasion also provides the leadership for a weekly check on the mood of its most ardent followers.

Photographers and television crews are always on the look out for the one moment that might translate that mood into images.

One such moment was captured last Friday in the photo splashed across five columns by Asharq Al Awsat its front page.

The photo depicts a corner of the congregation. One can distinctly see the faces of 22 men and one boy aged perhaps seven or eight. It is towards the end of the main sermon by Ayatollah

Ahmad Khatami when congregants are invited to wave their clenched fists and shout: "Death to America!", the signature slogan of Khomeinism.

But what do we see?

Of the 22 men, six have kept their mouths tightly shut, obviously wishing to show they are not shouting the required slogan. Another six keep their mouths moving, but are not waving clenched fists.

One man has raised both hands in a sign associated with surrender, and another is waving at the camera. Even those who seem to be shouting and waving clenched fists are doing so in a manner clearly designed to show that they are doing so reluctantly. With the exception of two individuals who seem camera-conscious and want to show their zeal, all others in the picture appear bored, tired and unhappy.

One young man is holding his chin in one hand, deep in his reverie as if he were all alone on a desert island. A middle-aged man is sneakily looking side ways, presumably towards the women's quarter, and ignoring what is going on around him. An older man stares into

the camera and waves his hand as if to say "hello!" One man appears to be fast asleep in the middle of 20,000 supposed "volunteers for martyrdom".

Of the 22 men, only eight appear to be young, that is to say aged below 40, a sure sign that Khomeinism is no longer attracting the youth. Of the eight young men in this picture, four are clean-shaven, something unthinkable in the Islamic Republic even five years ago.

Over the past 30 years, Iranians have developed a new branch of semiology, the science of signs, known as "rish shenas" (beard-spotting). This new science enables one to guess the social background and political tendencies of an individual from the form of his facial hair.

With the help of an amateur "rish shenas" (beard-spotter), we deconstructed the Asharq Al Awsat photo with some interesting results.

Of the 22 men in the photo, not one is sporting the mandatory radical style of beard associated with Khomeinist militants such as the Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. It is clear that nobody wishes to be mistaken for a

Hezbollahi, a species hated by most Iranians. Ten of the men wear traditional beards that have always been popular in Iran, especially in the countryside. Three have only moustaches, often associated with Iran with parties of the left such as the Communist Tudeh (Masses) or the Islamic-Marxists such as the Mujahedin Khalq. Two clean-shaven young men may well be mistaken for nostalgics of the Shah's regime. One could imagine them slipping into their designer suits and instantly feel at home at any middle class party anywhere in the world.

All the men in the picture wear shirts, four of them with short sleeves, something unthinkable a few years ago, and two more with sleeves rolled up. Needless to say, there is not a single necktie in sight, and only one of the shirts, a blue Yves Saint-Laurent one, looks expensive. Only one man is fondling a rosary, an object hat would have been almost universal in such a congregation only a few years ago.

The picture shows a congregation that is exclusively male, four-fifths middle aged or old, and, although appearances may be misleading, mostly from

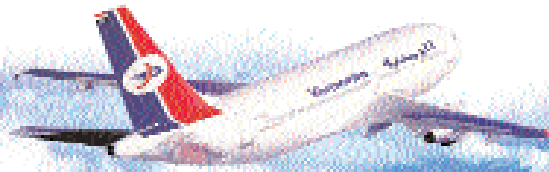
middle and lower middle class backgrounds. It does not represent a population that is 55 per cent female, 60 per cent young and 80 per cent urban working class and/or rural.

The Asharq Al Awsat's picture has a jewel right in the middle. This is the image of the young boy. We see him standing up and stretching one arm upwards with more enthusiasm than the old folk surrounding him. But what is he really doing? A closer look shows that he is trying to hang on to an imaginary object that would help him climb up. Why? Well, he is wearing an orange T-shirt showing the Spiderman, the American movie hero who climbs the highest walls.

The "Great Satan" is present in the inner sanctum of the Khomeinist religion, and, to make matters worse, by a young boy representing the future generation of Iranians.

Amir Taheri was born in Iran and educated in Tehran, London and Paris. Between 1980 and 1984 he was Middle East editor for the London Sunday Times.

Source : <http://www.asharq-e.com>



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HIV patients: rejected by both family and healthcare providers

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

An HIV-positive refugee from the Horn of Africa languished for three days outside the fence of Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a. Sleeping on the ground and covered with a piece of cardboard, the man eventually attracted the attention of a homeless wanderer who brought food and juice to nourish him. The African man eventually was admitted to the hospital, where he died shortly afterward. His body still hasn't been identified.

"He looked extremely sick and couldn't move or talk," recalled Mustafa Al-Shaubi, who works at a pharmacy near the hospital. "When we told the hospital's criminal investigations office that there was a patient near its fence, they replied, 'This patient has HIV, but had no companion or even an identification card, so we ejected him,'" Al-Shaubi continued.

According to Abdulqader Al-Mutawakil, head of Al-Jumhuri's criminal investigations office, the man was in an extremely poor state and defecating on himself. "While it's true that there was no one to look after him, no one from the hospital threw him out – we never do that. He somehow got out by himself," Al-Mutawakil maintained, adding, "Refugees receive better treatment than Yemenis themselves."

Dr. Ahmed Al-Garati, coordinator of Al-Jumhuri's National AIDS Control Program, alleges that the Ethiopian Embassy usually doesn't cooperate with the hospital. "They refuse to send someone to look after those Ethiopian HIV patients without companions, whereas the Somali Embassy does do this."

Al-Garati notes that Al-Jumhuri currently is keeping the bodies of four African refugees who died of AIDS-related causes in the hospital's mortu-



Another unidentified man from the Horn of Africa lies unattended in front of Al-Jumhuri Hospital. Last month, another man from the same region died after being left outside the hospital for three days while suffering from late-stage AIDS.

ary refrigerator because it has no information on them.

He adds, "However, we have 14 HIV-positive refugees with identification cards issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all of whom have documents to receive treatment at the hospital."

However, Ahmed Kalla, an Ethiopian Embassy employee who coordinates with Yemeni hospitals, says, "No one from Al-Jumhuri Hospital called us regarding that patient and, in fact, the last time I was there, I looked after two female Ethiopian patients, whom we sent back to Ethiopia."

"In order to determine whether a patient is Ethiopian, I ask for their identification cards. I then speak to him or her in Amharic to determine the exact area from which he or she comes,"

Kalla explained.

"The Ethiopians here in Yemen are from different tribes, each with its own committee to help those in need. The Ethiopian community gives Ethiopian patients medicine, money or a companion to help them if the patient needs to stay in the hospital," he added.

Al-Jumhuri Hospital requires all patients, including refugees, to have identification cards or to bring an accompanying companion to identify them.

Thousands of refugees from the Horn of Africa arrive in Yemen every year. HIV-positive refugees usually have no families to look after them and rarely have UNHCR-registered ID cards. Although those with advanced HIV or AIDS require intensive medical attention, Yemeni hospitals won't treat them without identification.

the hospital and he was brought inside, Al-Suhaibi says.

He added, "We are arranging to meet with UNHCR to discuss the problem of HIV-positive refugees entering Yemen without ID cards."

Al-Suhaibi says the National AIDS Control Program attempts to help HIV-positive refugees by paying HIV-positive companions to look after them, sometimes providing these HIV-positive refugees free medicine as well.

However, Al-Suhaibi says it's not the program's responsibility to gather up sick people off the streets. "Most unidentified AIDS patients arrive during the latter stages of the disease, which means they require much more care and medicine," he explains, adding, "HIV-positive patients' families should bring them to the hospital to receive medication, not dump them alone in front of the hospital."

"It's not only refugees who face discrimination regarding HIV, as Yemenis also are subjected to it everywhere they go," says Abu Muhanad, an HIV-positive Yemeni who asked to remain anonymous to protect his privacy.

"When I took my then-pregnant wife, who also is HIV-positive, to deliver our baby in Sana'a, three large hospitals refused to take her after I informed them that she was HIV-positive," he recounts. "I finally was forced to hide the fact that she's HIV-positive, as I had been advised by the National AIDS Control Program."

Abu Muhanad also recalled the plight of an Ethiopian woman whose family left her alone at the hospital and how health workers there mistreated her. "She was left for two days on the floor of the hospital corridor with no food or water. When I asked for food for her, a health worker put some food inside a plastic bag and threw it at her. I called the National AIDS Control Program manager and he came and asked for another person living with

HIV to look after her."

Most, if not all, AIDS patients come to Al-Jumhuri Hospital, the only AIDS treatment center in Sana'a, their conditions usually requiring intensive hospital care because they're often near death in the late stages of the disease.

HIV-positive Yemenis suggest establishing a special center for HIV/AIDS patients – separate from hospitals – for those requiring long-term care.

Despite all efforts to educate public health providers in Yemen, HIV-positive patients maintain that they still suffer discrimination at hospitals everywhere.

"We are concerned about the community, but they don't care about us," laments Abu Rashid, another HIV-positive Yemeni requesting anonymity in an effort to avoid further discrimination.

"When I told my dentist that I'm HIV positive, he accused me of adultery and asked me to leave," Abu Rashid recounted. "We need specially trained doctors to take care of AIDS patients, while those who already have such training should pay more attention to AIDS patients."

"There are HIV-positive people who have been forced out of mosques and their neighborhoods, however, I don't blame ordinary citizens," Abu Muhanad says. "Instead, I blame those doctors who discriminate against us."

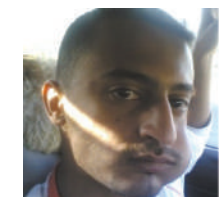
Yemenis with HIV still live in fear – more afraid of societal rejection than of the disease itself. Because of this, Yemenis living with HIV or AIDS often hide their disease.

However, Abu Muhanad advises all of those in Yemen who are hiding their HIV infection to live normally.

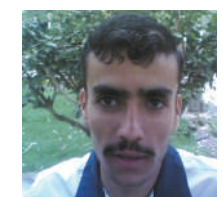
"They can visit the National AIDS Control Program to receive free medicine and treatment. Because their information is kept confidential, they can live their lives like other people and not worry," he concluded.

What's the appropriate age to start chewing qat?

By: Iskander Sa'eed Al-Mamari For The Yemen Times



Mohammed Al-Aghbari, 27, salesperson
"You can see that I'm addicted to chewing qat myself. If someone wants to do it, he can just do it [whenever]."



Jamal Brehih, 24, security soldier
"Because I studied in the countryside, I myself started chewing qat in primary school."



Muna Salih, 30, nurse
"There's no reason to chew qat because its disadvantages are more than its advantages."



Mohammed Naqib, 26, office worker
"I think it's OK for those 20 years and older to chew qat because it gives strength and power to those who desire to work."

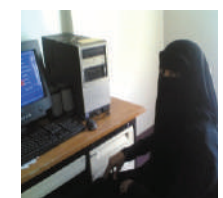


Alawi Mahmoud, 22, student
"I think it's appropriate to chew qat at age 16 because it's

then that you become able to take on responsibilities that oblige you to work instead of hanging around here and there."



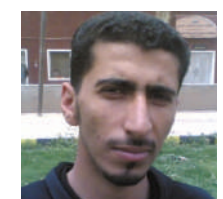
Bazel Ali Ahmed, 23, student
"Well, I think it's OK beginning at age 18."



Salma Ali Ibrahim, 25, secretary
"Most children nowadays chew qat, but they have no choice."



Mohammed Qaid Al-Huthaifi, 22, businessperson
"In my opinion, it's forbidden at any age because it causes many medical problems."

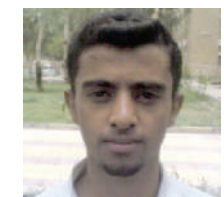


Hussam Mohammed Al-Hamadi, 25, computer programmer
"I think it's proper only once one is able to stand on his own two feet without me granting him the right to do it."



Faris Ali Al-Halimi, 30, qat seller
"If someone is dependent upon others, I don't advise

that he chew qat until he has his own income."



Waddah Al-Mahmoudi, 21, student
"I'm completely against qat. I really can't stand it."



Essam Al-Saghir, 24, student
"People's health becomes worse [from chewing qat] at any age, but particularly young people, so I'm extremely against it."



Sulaiman Salih Al-Zabidi, 26, freelancer
"Since there aren't many public places where people can spend [leisure] time, they turn to chewing qat – even children."



Ali Yahya Al-Haddi, 31, business owner
"As you can see, even I chew qat, so there's no pre-determined age."



Najib Mahdi, 23, student
"It's more important to find work than to chew qat."

Yemen strives to stop firearms proliferation

By: Mohammed Al-Asaadi with Ghamdan Al-Yusufi The Media Line

Until recently guns in Yemen were almost as common as water. But bearing arms in the streets was banned a year ago. The Media Line reports on whether the legislation has made any difference.

Muhammad never thought that the pistol he kept for self-defense would one evening kill his own child, when the boy took his father's gun to play with.

In Yemen there are many such tragic stories about gun victims. It is not unusual to read a newspaper report about a bride who has been accidentally killed by her new husband on their wedding day as he celebrates by firing into the air and loses control over his Kalashnikov AK-47, which is the most popular gun in the country.

Men in Yemen have been obliged to give up part of their traditional manhood following the ban last August on weapons carrying in the cities, a ban that the authorities are working tirelessly to enforce.

The Yemeni Ministry of Interior has deployed hundreds of security personnel at almost all entrances of the capital to inspect for firearms. Drivers and passengers have to show their IDs to patrolling police at main intersections, as the police are also searching for 160 wanted security suspects.

Deputy Interior Minister Mohammed Al-Qawsi told The Media Line that his ministry released 234 arms dealers after about two weeks under arrest. All guns confiscated from 300 closed firearms shops are being held by the authorities until further notice.

Al-Qawsi said the Yemeni constitution guaranteed the right of all civilians to possess firearms for self-defense purposes. However, owners are prohibited from carrying guns in public in an attempt to reduce crime and human and property losses.

"People can have their own guns in their homes for self-defense," said Al-Qawsi. "However, they have to register their guns so that in the case of a crime or an incident of self-defense the guns used can be easily identified."

Despite the strong Yemeni tradition that is associated with weapons in different forms, Yemenis realize the high cost of this phenomenon and support the move.

Abdul-Rahman Abosh, a cab driver in Sana'a, told The Media Line, "I don't want to see guns in the streets. I really encourage the government to chase those carrying arms."

It took Yemen several decades to realize the danger of firearms in the hands of a mostly tribal society with a 65 percent illiteracy rate.

For almost a year now, the security apparatus in Yemen has so far confiscated around 150,000 weapons at checkpoints and city entrances. Al-Qawsi said that 148,000 small arms have been confiscated from citizens.

According to Al-Qawsi, the figure behind the ongoing anti-gun campaign, the ministry has been trying to implement the law that regulates small arms carrying since the parliament has been delaying the new draft law.

This crackdown on arms has resulted in a remarkable decrease in the usually alarming figures of crimes and deaths resulting from gun fighting. There were 628 criminal incidents in the two-month period prior to the execution of the campaign, while there were 364 incidents in the two months after the campaign started, a decrease of 42%.

There were 59 gun-related deaths in the two months before the campaign; only 20 such deaths were reported in the two months after the commencement of the campaign. The authorities reported an 80% decrease in public arms carrying in the main cities.

The Ministry of Interior officially declared that firearms were involved in 79.21% of the total annual crimes committed by civilians.

According to the Small Arms Survey 2007, Yemen is one of the most heavily armed and most violent societies in the world. The demographic distribution of its citizens indicates that more than one quarter of the population of about 22 million are adults. Thus, the average adult civilian owns up to three firearms.

The survey concludes that Yemenis own between six and 17 million firearms – 61 firearms for every 100 civilian. This is by far the lower estimated figure

against claims that there are more than 40 million firearms in Yemen.

Internationally, the survey found that civilians owned approximately 750 million firearms worldwide, roughly 75% of the known total, with 270 million owned by U.S. civilians. The United States is the leading country in possession of firearms; excluding the U.S. from the survey brings the average down from one gun per seven people to one gun per 10 people.

Moreover, the U.S. is home to roughly 35-50% of the world's civilian-owned guns. Roughly, in the U.S. 4.5 million firearms are bought out of some eight million new firearms manufactured annually worldwide.

Abdul-Rahman Al-Marwani, president of the Peace House, a local NGO working to eliminate revenge and stop arms carrying, told The Media Line that this phenomenon was very destructive to Yemen. A study by his organization found that Yemen lost hundreds of millions of dollars every year because of small firearms.

Moreover, the Ministry of Interior said that 50% of the 45,000 crimes that took place in a four-year period were the result of firearms.

Civil society organizations are working hard to validate a new draft law that regulates the possession and carrying of small arms; however, their efforts are clashing with the wills of influential tribal figures who are also members of parliament.

The proliferation of guns in Yemen does not only harm civilians, development and investment in the country, it goes beyond the borders to affect the neighboring oil-rich Saudi Kingdom.

Kingdom officials have expressed concern over gun smuggling from Yemen. They believe that Al-Qa'ida cells in Saudi Arabia receive their arms and ammunition from Yemen, a situation that led to the signing of a security cooperation treaty between the two countries in 2003.

Yemen tried, with Saudi and U.S. support, to purchase small and medium weapons from its civilians at a cost estimated to be \$50 million. While this may seem to be a large amount, it is relatively small in comparison to the real volume of firearms in Yemen.

Al-Ahqaf manuscript library preserves Islamic history and learning

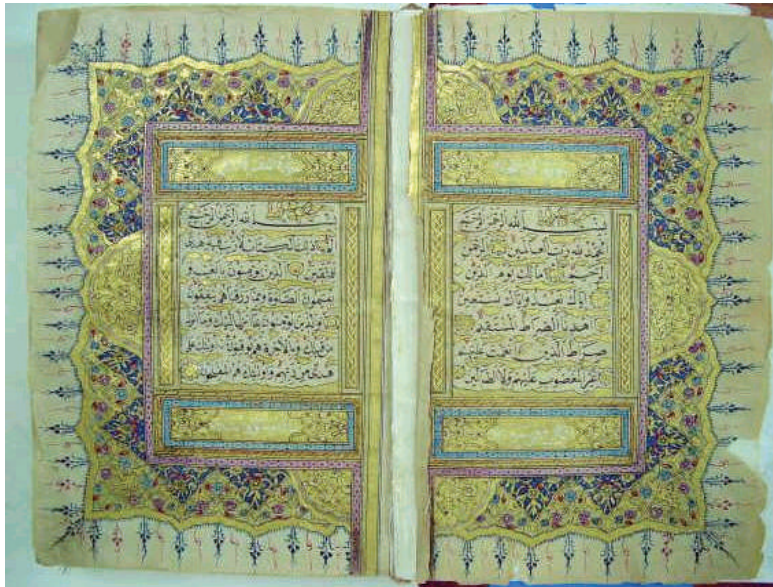
By: Mohamed Ahmed Bin Shihab
alshihabi@hotmail.com

The Al-Ahqaf Manuscript library is a unique jewel for us, carrying a reflection of the learned people that have come before us. It is upon us to work and to re-establish the organization of this inheritance so that it might become clear in the hearts and in the books, according to Abu Bakr Ibn Ali Al-Mashhur, Islamic scholar and founder of numerous Islamic institutions.

This library was named Al-Ahqaf in reference to the old name of the Hadramout valley, as it was called in the Holy Quran in the Sura of the same name. It was established in 1972 by the Endowment for Private Libraries by the following individuals and their families: Umar Ibn Ali Al-Junaid and his brother Ahmed, Abdullah Ibn Umar Ibn Yahya, Hussein Ibn Abdul Rahman Ibn Sahl and Al-Kaf family. The Al-

Kaf library comprised the collections of Al-Kaf and Al-Husseini libraries, which originally belonged to the literary scholar and historian Saleh Ibn Ali Al-Hamed.

The administrator of these libraries thought to make them one in order to facilitate reading and research while simultaneously easing maintenance and care. The Ministry of Culture took charge of the administration and upkeep of this library. They later passed this task on to the Yemeni Center for Cultural Research, Museums and Archeology. In the early stages of setting up the library, there were some printed materials mixed in with the manuscripts and it was deemed necessary to separate one from the other. To accommodate these, the Al-Ahqaf Library for Printed Matter was established. Subsequently, the decision to make the Al-Ahqaf library the main library for manuscripts in the country was thought of by the Minister of Culture for the government of South



The library is open for scholars, researchers and the general public.

Yemen before the unification. About 200 manuscripts were added to the Al-Ahqaf library. Most of these came from two places; 80 came from the Sultani library in Al-Mukalla, and another 50 came from the library of Sheikh Al-Amoudi Ibn Shubat Ba Muhammad of the Amd valley. The remainder came from a number of different sources.

The Al-Ahqaf library has several departments, including the department of manuscripts that contains some 6,200 manuscripts arranged in cupboards according to subject: Qur'anic exegesis, Prophetic traditions, jurisprudence, Sufism, biographies and history, language and literature, medicine, and assorted collections (manuscripts containing more than one subject). Most of these manuscripts go back to the 10th and 11th century after Hijrah. Among them are rarities like an edition of the Qur'anic exegesis by Al-Bayaan by Abu Jafar Ibn Muhammad Ibn Al-Hassan Al-Tusi and the second part of a medical text by Ibn Sina (Avicenna).

This edition was copied in 633A.H. and contains margin notes that were copied from the author's edition.

Other departments include the Department of Printed Materials, which contains references related to the manuscripts and indexes for some world libraries, the Department of Computers and Photocopying and the Department of Maintenance, which has materials and equipment for bookbinding and restoration.

Due to the great cultural inheritance it comprises, the Al-Ahqaf library must serve researchers and students coming from different foundations and governments as well as private and foreign universities who come to check manuscripts or do research. Ahmed Al-Jifry, a student at Dar Al-Mustafa, an international center for Islamic studies, came to the library to check a manuscript on jurisprudence. "I always come to the library to see what our predecessors handed down to us. I am very proud to find a library like this in

my country," he said. Dr. Linda Bexberger is a historian who has visited the library and expressed her pleasure about the services that the library offers.

"I am very pleased to see the good condition of the Al-Ahqaf Manuscript library these days and to see that catalogues and access are available to researchers and scholars," Bexberger added.

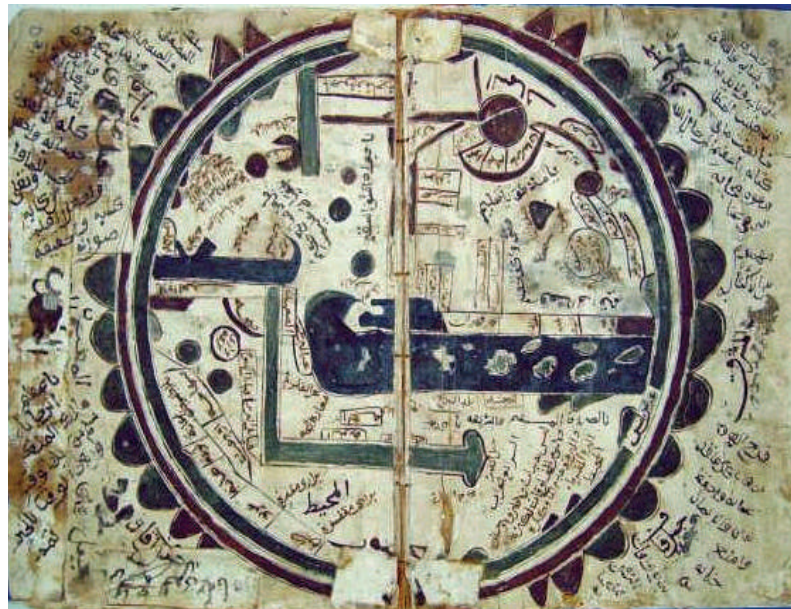
There are also visits from government officials and tourists and a considerable number of students and local visitors who come to visit the library on a regular basis. Dr. Abdul Rahim Seyid Bakr, the Minister of Higher Education, Academic Research and Culture in the Comor Islands, visited the library and wished to increase youth interest in the treasures held there.

"This is a rich heritage, so we hope that future generations protect it for those who will follow us," said Seyid Bakr.

Despite the services that the library offers its visitors, there are still some obstacles that hinder their perform-

ance. The administrator of the library, Hussein Al-Hadi, said that the library faces some difficulties due to the low number of employees and the lack of courses to qualify those employees. "The library still does not draw sufficient interest or support from the government or have sufficient financial supplies, even though it is a one of the most unique intellectual establishments in Yemen," said Al-Hadi. He added that there have been many manuscripts that came up for sale, but the library is not able to buy them because they do not have financial allocations for this purpose. "The opportunity to acquire these manuscripts passes us by and we do not know where they end up," said Al-Hadi. Another problem is that the library is restricted in size. However, recently there have been talks to find a place for the library in the restored Al-Renad palace.

The task of preserving this inheritance is not specific to any one particular group, but rather everyone is responsible to do what they can to keep these rich Islamic texts well-cared for and held in high esteem.



Manuscripts in Al - Ahqaf library include Quranic studies, medicine and law.



A foreign delegation visits Al-Ahqaf Manuscript Library.

Afghan female artists in Berlin Straightening the pictures

Cultural self-awareness is gradually awakening again in Afghanistan. An exhibition in Berlin provides a glimpse of it. Contemporary paintings by female Afghan artists can be seen there for the first time. Aygül Cizmecioglu reports for Qantara.de

Perfect weather in Berlin – the sky is a brilliant blue, and it is pleasantly warm. Rather than enjoying the sun at one of the street cafes, however, dozens of camera people, photographers, and politicians push their way through Saxony's State Mission.

A whitewashed hall, exquisite parquet flooring, and walls covered with huge paintings. In the midst of it all are four young women. They listen to the innumerable questions somewhat shyly and look away from the cameras with embarrassment. Some of them cover

their dark hair with filmy silk scarves. It is an absolute premiere for the four young artists. They are presenting their works outside their native country of Afghanistan for the first time.

"I have become much more self-assured through painting. Women in my society used to be invisible," says 19-year-old Sheenkai Alam Stanikazai. Because of art, she now feels much more free.

Searching for identity with brushstrokes

Above all, it is rage that is expressed in the artists' paintings. Women's faces



Sheenkai Alam Stanikazai: "I have become much more self-assured through painting. Women in my society used to be invisible"

are squeezed into confining squares, shadowy silhouettes are lost in the crowd. Burkas are pasted all over with eyes and mouths.

Almost all the artists are in their early twenties. They were born shortly after the Taliban seized power. War and insecurity have characterized their lives until now. Education and self-determination have always been a struggle.

Today they seek their identity with brushstrokes, show themselves and their fears through paint. They have studied at the Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan. It is a private art school intended especially for women, which was founded by artists in 2004.

"We are not state-financed but have to arrange everything ourselves," says cofounder Rahraw Omarzad. That is something entirely new in Afghanistan, because in the past art was often mis-

used as a means of propaganda. "But only through diversity can a society grow and establish a democratic culture. And that is precisely what we are attempting to do here."

Heavy burden of the past

Twenty-three young women from liberal families are now studying at the academy of arts in Kabul. They have boundless curiosity and a tremendous need to make up for lost time. Under the Taliban, the depiction of humans and animals was punishable by whipping – a strict prohibition of images in the name of Allah. Only idyllic landscapes and calligraphies were allowed. These motifs are entirely absent from the works of the young artists today.

Although that was a break with radicalism for them, it was not a break with their roots. Sheenkai Alam Stanikazai and the others describe themselves as

devout Muslims. "Islam and art are not contradictions for me. Painting has a long tradition in my religion. We simply have to develop it further and show that our point of view can also be part of Islam."

Pigeonholing also in the West

That is why the four artists have come to Berlin.

They have had discussions with German art students here and visited countless museums and galleries. Khadija Hashemi's almond eyes light up when she talks about it – art everywhere, it is like Ramadan and a birthday at the same time.

Yet the 21-year-old has observed that her homeland is not the only place where they are pigeonholed. "Many people here in the West smile condescendingly at us and think that we are not really talented, particularly since

women in Afghanistan are constantly oppressed anyway. Perhaps the exhibition can help straighten this picture a bit, because we are not that different from the women here at all."

Khadija Hashemi, Sheenkai Alam Stanikazai, and the others want to break down clichés – on the Spree, just as on the Hindu Kush. That is why they are not only studying, but are also teaching younger art classes and visiting girls in the Afghan provinces, in order to pass on a little of their pioneering spirit. After all, it is not only possible to change things with words and politics, but with brush and paint as well.

Aygül Cizmecioglu
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Contemporary art from Afghanistan - Oil painting by Sheenkai Alam Stanikazai



"Many people here in the West smile condescendingly at us and think that we are not really talented". Khadija Hashimi in front of one of her paintings.

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Al-Mashaqir and the status of women in folklore

By: Nisreen Shadad
For The Yemen Times

Al-Mashaqir is a collection of fragrant plants worn in women's hair, but is also a testament to women's beauty and strength as well as a connection to their culture.

This idea penetrated the heart and mind of Arwa Othman, the director of the Folklore House, who launched "Al-Mashaqir: a Photo Exhibition," on Wednesday, July 23rd. Folkloric and ancient interpretations of women's status in society were the subjects of the exhibition and subsequent lectures, which were all held at the Folklore House in Sana'a city.

The tradition of wearing Al-Mashaqir, which women used to sport everywhere and all the time, is about to disappear. The fragrant bouquet and its bright colors form a natural decoration, drawing attention to the femininity and power of the Yemeni woman.

"With al-Mashaqir, Yemeni women become so attractive - even with wrinkles that cover their faces," she said. Othman equated the dearth of women wearing Al-Mashaqir in their hair as a sort of symbolic death of Yemeni female empowerment.

On the second day of the exhibition there was a talk related to women and their status in society throughout history.

Abdul Aziz Al-Maqaleh, the director of the Yemeni Center for Research and Study, said that there were many elements that worked together to subjugate women, most importantly is a society's impression of "woman." Al-Maqaleh said that society often deals with women cruelly and violently, because they suppose that women are weak and capable to be broken, but that image is untrue.

In the ancient past, women were held in high regard. Women are the ones who



Al-Mashaqir, a beautiful tradition in Yemen.

developed agriculture and farming. Women worked as traders and merchants, in addition to being wives and mothers, and that was reflected to their culture, said Fawzia Shamsan, a

professor at Sana'a University. In ancient Greece, there were numerous goddesses such as Astarte, Goddess of Fertility, and Tyche, the Goddess of Fortune. Tyche was widely

worshipped, despite her fickle nature. However, over time this image changed and women became a symbol of evil, according to Shamsan, who said that this image has continued until today.

The philosophers' vision of women sometimes played a negative role as well. Plato's work, "The Republic," is considerably egalitarian and clearly states that females should receive the same training as males.

Nor did it place limitations on how high a woman can rise within society. But in his text, "Laws," his image of woman changed. He said, "A brief mention may be made of the generation of other animals, so far as the subject admits of brevity; in this manner our argument will best attain a due proportion. On the subject of animals, then, the following remarks may be offered. Of the men who came into the world, those who were cowards or led unrighteous lives may with reason be supposed to have changed into the nature of women in the second generation."

This view is explicit once more when he writes, "That part of the human race which is by nature prone to secrecy and stealth on account of their weakness—I mean the female sex—has been left without regulation by the legislator, which is a great mistake."

Aristotle created political and psychological reasons for explaining the differences between men and women. "In comparison with man's bodily condition, the bodily condition of woman is one of weakness, and this comparative weakness points toward a retiring domestic role within the home." Aristotle argues that women's capacity for thought lacks authority and is overruled easily: "The woman's decisions and actions are too often guided by pleasures and pains, so that she is unfit for leadership and very much in need of temperance."

Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali, a Muslim

philosopher, once said that woman is the enemy of man. There is no evidence of this in Islam, and Shamsan questioned where Al-Ghazali came up with these thoughts.

The status of women in proverbs

Afaf Al-Haimi, a professor of Sociology at Sana'a University, commented on the role of the proverbs that belittle the status of women. "Proverbs are actually a mirror of the nation's culture," said Al-Haimi. "Moreover, it is directing people's behavior."

Most proverbs, both western and eastern, don't actually look at women's minds - only her body. Such Yemeni proverbs that infer negativity include, "She waits, waits, waits, and finally, gives a birth to a girl," which implies that having a female child is a

disappointment. Another Yemeni proverb, "A woman's correct counsel is worth seven crises," means that a woman's advice has no value and causes problems, even when it is right.

Proverbs like these reflect two female qualities, according to Al-Haimi; the first is that woman is a body without a mind and the second is that evil dwells inside of her. "How, then, can a woman teach her children - both boy and girl - virtues if she has only these two qualities? How can a Muslim community uphold these thoughts, while we have verses in Quran [contrary to this]?" said Al-Haimi.

"Since we [our culture] see women only for their bodies, it follows and is natural for women to be harassed when walking in the street," Al-Haimi concluded.



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إن جهازك الكومبيوتر Nokia N82 هو وسيلة رائعة لاكتشاف، التقاط ومشاركة قصص أجمل، فمع نظام A-GPS مدمج وخرائط مجانية قابلة للتحميل، يمكنك القيام باكتشافات جديدة كل يوم. ويمتلك هذا الجهاز صوراً مفعمة بالحياة بواسطة كاميرا 5 ميجابيكسل، فلاش Xenon قوي وعدسة Carl Zeiss. كما أن الربط بتكنولوجيا Wi-Fi وتنزيل الصور بفترة واحدة على شبكة الإنترنت يجعلان مشاركتها أمراً في غاية السهولة. يمكنك الآن اكتشاف ذكريات أجمل القصص مع Nokia N82.

اعد اكتشاف القصص على الموقع nseries.com/storytelling.

Nokia N82. رواية القصص أعيد اكتشافها.

مجاناً ذاكرة إضافية 2GB

52° 30' N
13° 25' E

NOKIA Nseries

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